Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel's Rabin, Egypt's Mubarak Talk in Taba

Rabin Arrives

NC3107141194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1352 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Taba, 31 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin arrived in Taba at 1630 today to meet with President Husni Mubarak. They will discuss developments in the peace process on various Arab-Israeli tracks to give impetus to the efforts toward achieving peace on all tracks.

President Mubarak and Rabin are scheduled to hold an international news conference in Taba after their talks.

Musa on Talks, Israel Visit

NC3107150094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Taba, 31 Jul (MENA)—Prior to President Husni Mubarak's talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, scheduled to begin in Taba later today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that these talks will focus on the peace process and bilateral relations.

Musa said the Jerusalem issue will come up in the final phase of the negotiations.

Answering an Israeli journalist's question on why President Mubarak does not visit Israel, Musa said that there is no problem regarding such a visit.

News Conference Held

NC0108040594 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1518 GMT 31 Jul 94

[News conference by President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with unidentified correspondents in Taba—Rabin speaks in English with superimposed Arabic translation, italicized passages transcribed from English; live]

[Text] [Mubarak] *Good afternoon. I would like to tell you that I welcome Prime Minister Rabin in Taba. And we are meeting here for the first time. We held talks. We discussed the issues. We made a big survey about the peace process, the Jordanian line, the Palestinian line, the prospects of what we expect from the negotiations with Syria and the preparing for the next visit of the secretary of state, which will take place maybe on 8 August, as far as I heard. And we also discussed bilateral relations, which are going in a very good form and a very good line. This is in brief. And I say again I welcome the prime minister here. And we are cooperating and exchanging views on different issues within the peace process. Thank you.*

[Rabin] *Mr. President, thank you very much for your hosting me here in Taba. I believe that our meetings have become a matter of [word indistinct] because of the fact that Egypt was the leading Arab country that opened the door for the possibility of achieving peace between Egypt and Israel, the Arab world and Israel. I believe that Egypt has assisted every party on the Arab side who was ready to negotiate peace. It is not by sheer coincidence that most of the talks that brought about the implementation of the DOP [declaration of principles] that was signed in Washington with the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians were practically carried out in Egypt. And the signing of the first practical part of the Gaza and Jericho First was [word indistinct] unique ceremony in Cairo. I am pleased that whatever that was signed in Cairo about Gaza and Jericho was carried out, implemented in two to three weeks. The negotiations with the Palestinians about the further steps—early empowerment, later on about elections—are continuing in Cairo. And we more than thank the president of Egypt for hosting and helping us in advancing the negotiations with the Palestinians in the future. We are now after the signing of the Washington Declaration, which is a major step toward peace with Jordan. And bringing the negotiations between Jordan and Israel again [word indistinct] at this stage in the Ha'Arava wherever is the border there [words indistinct].*

I believe that the movement that has taken place and is taking place between us and the Palestinians, and in a separate way with the Jordanians, is an effort to build a comprehensive peace between us and the other three neighboring states of Israel. We hope that there will be movement on the Israeli-Syrian track. We are seeking peace with Syria. We fully understand that there will be certain requirements. I hope that there will be a change on the Syrian side as a result of what happened with the Palestinians and Jordanians. We are waiting now for another visit by the U.S. secretary of state. He will undoubtedly play a helping role for the Syrian and Jordanian sides. We also discussed some bilateral relations. I hope that in the near future President Mubarak will be able to visit Israel. At the same time, I hope that other Egyptians will visit Israel. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

[Mubarak] *Questions.*

[Israeli Television Channel 1 correspondent] Do you intend to visit Israel for the first time, and when?

[Mubarak] I believe that I have been asked this question several times. Every time I was asked it, I said that I have no sensitivity about visiting Israel. We discussed this with the prime minister and I will visit Israel at the proper time.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you think you will visit it this year?

[Mubarak] I have no objections. But I cannot specify the time.

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[Unidentified correspondent] Why don't you come to us in Israel?

[Mubarak] No reason. There is no problem. I am saying that I am willing to visit Israel but at the proper time.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are you waiting for the Syrian side?

[Mubarak] I have no sensitivities about visiting Israel.

[Unidentified correspondent] What are the prospects for peace between....

[Mubarak, interrupting] You are moving from one question to another.

[Cairo ESC Television correspondent] Through your efforts to reach peace, you visited Saudi King Fahd yesterday and met with Hafiz al-Asad in Syria. Now you are meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Do you expect any progress on the Syrian-Israeli track before the end of 1994?

[Mubarak] Frankly, I visited President Hafiz al-Asad and the visit was preplanned. I then went to see his majesty the Saudi king for a few hours to exchange views. We do this often. I met with the king and I am now meeting with Yitzhaq Rabin, the cornerstone of the peace process. I say frankly that the Syrians are greatly interested in peace. As the prime minister said, they might have their own needs. But I can say that we hope to see some flexibility during the coming visit of the U.S. secretary of state. I hope that we will be able to conclude this before the end of this year.

[Unidentified correspondent] What has Egypt's experience of building peace with Israel contributed to the establishment of the comprehensive peace in the Middle East?

[Mubarak] The question makes us go back to earlier history. After the October war, we began to think about the peace process. Peace was the war's objective. When President al-Sadat began his famous and bold initiative, he visited Israel and spoke before the Israeli Knesset. He talked about peace. I believe that this opened the way for starting the dialogue for peace in the entire Arab region. We reached a peace agreement and ended the state of hostilities with Israel in 1978. The other Arabs might have been late but I say that President al-Sadat was farsighted and had a very solid assessment of the situation. The PLO and then Jordan later joined the process. I hope, God willing, that Syria will reach a comprehensive agreement on the peace issue. Egypt is contributing much. Egypt speaks to help the Palestinians. At times we spoke to help our brothers in Jordan. When the need arises, even with our Syrian brothers, Egypt will not hesitate in giving its support so a comprehensive solution can be achieved on the issue.

[Nadir Diyab, Egyptian Television Channel 1 correspondent] Mr. President, there is no doubt that today's talks represent....

[Unidentified correspondent, interrupting] Mr. Prime Minister, I would like to ask the main problem in achieving progress with the Syrian side?

[Rabin] Well, first Syria has to do something about its general policy and statements. It should come up with something convincing the Israeli people that Israel [word as heard] is enthusiastic about peace. I will give an example mentioned by the president. He showed readiness to visit Israel. Believe me, he visited Israel and came to Jerusalem before President Anwar al-Sadat. [paragraph as heard]

Before signing the agreement in Washington, the U.S. President, King Husayn, and I shook hands, but there has been no initiative by Syria in this regard. I learned that Syrian television showed part of the signing ceremony of the Washington Declaration, and perhaps this may a good start. I believe that something has to be done, not only by leaders but by people on both sides. The people should be convinced that there is a change in stances from hostility to further friendship and from the state of war to at least a state of no war.

[Unidentified correspondent, in progress] ...on the Israeli side regarding Jerusalem....

[Mubarak, interrupting] Ask the question in English.

[Egyptian television correspondent] What is the extent of flexibility regarding Jerusalem?

[Rabin] Under the Declaration of Principles signed with the Palestinians in Washington, we are committed to negotiations on Jerusalem according to the declaration no later than two years after completing the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho Accord. This will be part of negotiations over permanent solutions. We and the Palestinians have comfortable positions. We are convinced that Jerusalem should be united under Israeli sovereignty and that there should be free access to all Islamic, Jewish, and Christian sites. We have decided that we will not negotiate the issue at this stage. What we signed in the Washington Declaration basically respects the existing agreements on Islamic holy places that have been financed by Jordan over the past 27 years.

Once again, when we negotiate a final status we will not change the arrangements regarding Islamic and Christian sanctities that have existed for the past 27 years.

[Unidentified correspondent] What are your expectations from the peace process between Syria, Lebanon, and Israel? Will the peace process be conducted with both of them together?

[Rabin] I am not a prophet. I am only a prime minister and not even a president. I can say what Israel's policy is. What we are trying to do is negotiate seriously with Syria. I do not believe that we could have reached an agreement with Egypt 16 years ago without direct contacts. We would not have achieved an agreement with the PLO without direct contacts. We could not have

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reached an agreement with Jordan without direct contacts. We would like to see the beginning of a change on the Syrian side in this direction.

[AL-MUSAWWAR correspondent Makram Muhammad] I would like to ask you a two- part question. The first one is: Why are you insisting on secret negotiations with Syria? The second one is: Have you accepted a full peace, that is, full withdrawal from the Golan?

[Rabin] Are you asking me?

[Makram Muhammad] Certainly.

[Rabin] Well, I wish that you were my partner in the negotiations on Syria's behalf. You know that there are conflicting stances in every negotiating process. Israel's present government, which I have the honor of leading, is the first Israeli government that has clarified that it is ready to withdraw from the Golan. No other government in the past declared this so publicly. But I cannot do so without knowing what will be given in return. Because you cannot compel Syria; I cannot negotiate with any journalist or chief editor because it is not a question of peace with the media but of peace with Syria.

[Unidentified correspondent] Can you tell us now that you have been negotiating with President al-Asad for two years? Last year the only progress made was the direct talks between Israel and the other party and moving the venue of negotiations from Washington to the region with some help from the U.S. Administration. I know that there is some interest from the U.S. Administration. First, why has President Hafiz al-Asad so far refused to talk directly with Israel, and second, why has he refused to move the talks to the region and has hesitated in publicly showing some flexibility toward Israel?

[Mubarak] Frankly, this question should be addressed to President al-Asad. I can say that I do not know and that I cannot voice expectations. As the prime minister said, I, too, am not a prophet but I can say, quite frankly, that I spoke about all these issues with President al-Asad. I am not a superpower to exert pressure. There should be an evaluation or assessment on their part and they should take the steps on the first two points. As to the [word indistinct], I believe that this issue will not be discussed with us and I cannot comment on it. My impression and feeling is that Syria is interested in and cares about peace. I hope that Syria will be able to reach an agreement by the end of the year. This is my feeling.

[Unidentified correspondent] Did you speak with President al-Asad today?

[Mubarak] No.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President Mubarak, do you feel that President al-Asad intends to take effective steps to make progress in the negotiations with Israel?

[Mubarak] I want to say that President al-Asad wants peace, just as any other head of state in the region. If the Palestinians are after peace for one reason or another and Jordan wants peace, Hafiz al-Asad wants peace before all these. However, there are other considerations and other talks that are continuing. I believe that in the next phase there will be more flexibility. I wish from the bottom of my heart that we reach a solution before the end of this year.

[Unidentified correspondent] During this year?

[Mubarak] I hope so.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, please explain if you have heard anything new from President al-Asad during your last meeting, anything that might make us optimistic about the talks with Israel.

[Mubarak] My feeling is that he is much more flexible and seeks peace.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is this a feeling?

[Mubarak] It is a feeling. From the talks and from what is published in the media, I feel and frankly say that he wants to reach a settlement.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Mubarak] It is a matter of mistrust between the two sides. This is the only point.

[Unidentified correspondent] After your meeting today, what is your view?

[Rabin] President Mubarak conveyed his impressions and his feelings regarding the stance of Syria and its president. We have to judge the negotiations—the meaningful negotiations—on the elements that are needed to reach an agreement to materialize hopes, expectations, and feelings.

[UKTUBAR correspondent Rajab al-Banna] Mr. Prime Minister, let me ask you frankly: Yasir 'Arafat is now in Gaza. What is the next step and what is your stance on the Palestinians at present?

[Rabin] We have been negotiating in Cairo during the last two weeks and we will continue negotiating on the early empowerment and the question of the elections. What worries me, not only for the future steps but for the present situation in Gaza and Jericho, is the incapability of the donor countries and the Palestinians to achieve what the donors need. They need a transparent and accountable system in which to put $400 to $500 million in support of economic development, social development, and maintaining the administration and police. This is what worries me because any diplomatic move or agreement that is not translated into the life of the people will be a setback in the long run. Therefore, what worries me is that the Palestinians lack the capability to create a

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transparent and accountable system into which the donors will channel hundreds of millions of dollars in support of development.

[Mubarak] One more question.

[Israeli television correspondent] Having met with President al-Asad, can you tell us whether is he still insisting on a full Israeli withdrawal as the starting point for the negotiations?

[Mubarak] I have said it several times. I am not saying that President al-Asad has stressed full withdrawal. But, in my view, Syria will not agree to sign any peace agreement unless there is a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights. This is my view but I am not speaking on behalf of President al-Asad.

[Unidentified correspondent] You have talked about Jerusalem with Prime Minister Rabin. Does your view of the Jerusalem issue as stated in the Washington Declaration differ from that of Syria?

[Mubarak] I told the prime minister that a decision on the status of Jerusalem should be made in the final stage of negotiations. Thank you.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Mubarak] Go and do it.

Rabin Departs

NC3107164694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1635 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Taba, 31 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left Taba to go back home tonight following intensive talks with President Husni Mubarak, which were followed by an international news conference.

Egyptian Officials View Syrian Stands

TA0108085794 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 1 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Dan Avidan from Taba]

[Text] An Egyptian political figure very closely affiliated with President Mubarak yesterday told DAVAR that Syrian President al-Asad is not about to adopt the model of the talks Israel held with the Palestinians or the Jordanians which led to the recent breakthrough in those tracks.

According to the figure, for the time being, al-Asad will continue opposing direct negotiations with Israel and moving the talks to the Middle East. Also, al-Asad will, for now, refuse to make gestures for the Israeli public opinion which could give Rabin more support for announcing that he is willing to fully withdraw from the Golan Heights. The Egyptian figure stressed that al-Asad will mainly oppose opening a secret track of negotiations with Israel because he fears that in such negotiations Israel might maneuver him into a corner. Al-Asad fears the traditional image Israel has in the eyes of the Arabs, according to which Israel is a "cunning" and plotting country.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 1 August carries a 400-word report by Smadar Peri in Taba and political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on pages 1 and 19 adding: "Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will accept a formula of 'a phased withdrawal in return for peace in stages.' This statement was made yesterday by a senior member of the entourage that accompanied Egyptian President Mubarak to the Taba meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

["At the same time, al-Asad has two preconditions for accepting the 'principle of stages': He wants Rabin to make a public commitment for a full withdrawal from the Golan, and the stages of withdrawal implemented in no more than two years. The official also believes that no 'impressive breakthrough' will be attained during the coming shuttle between Jerusalem and Damascus by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher." The report goes on to say that "U.S. Administration officials expect Prime Minister Rabin to make a public announcement recognizing Syrian sovereignty over the Golan, similar to the one made by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres."]

According to the Egyptian political figure, President Mubarak is trying to convince President al-Asad to make gestures for the Israeli public and to agree to move the talks to the Middle East. So far, however, Mubarak has failed in convincing al-Asad to make his stands more flexible.

Al-Asad continues to mainly rely on massive U.S. involvement in the negotiations, and he is awaiting Christopher's imminent visit to the region. According to the figure, whenever Mubarak meets al-Asad, he explains that Syria must show that it accepts Israel as a legitimate Middle East country and its people as a sovereign nation.

Mubarak's advice to al-Asad—to recognize Israel—assists Rabin in dismantling settlements on the Golan Heights, most of which were set up by settlers affiliated with Labor.

The figure said that Egypt fears that if Rabin announces a withdrawal of settlements on the Golan before President al-Asad makes a serious gesture for the Israel public, a broad front of settlers from the Golan and the West Bank would be formed and would threaten the Israeli Government's stability.

Mubarak further told al-Asad that he should recognize the Israeli Government, and then present his stands before it, tough as they may be. This is precisely what President al-Sadat did at the time when he first recognized Israel's right to exist as a sovereign state in the region, and only then did he demand that the Sinai be

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returned to the last square inch. "We keep telling al-Asad that the Arabs must turn Israel from an enemy into a Middle East asset," the figure told DAVAR. "The Arabs must recognize Israel's existence—which is a fact they cannot change—and live with it in peace as Jews and Arabs lived before the State of Israel was founded," he added.

Speaking on other issues, Mubarak's affiliate told DAVAR that Egypt wants to get rid of the Multinational Force of Observers in the Sinai, the maintenance of which is very costly for both Israel and Egypt. "We will suggest that an Egyptian-Israeli liaison unit be established and consist of a handful of people, which would save the Egyptians $17 million annually." The figure further maintained that at a certain point, Israel suggested to the Egyptian Government a discussion on a gradual Middle East disarmament of nonconventional weapons.

Israelis Arrive in Cairo for Palestinian Talks

NC0108085194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the occupied territories and head of the Israeli delegation to the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, arrived in Cairo this morning heading an 18-member delegation.

The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are expected to resume today in Cairo.

Jordan's Information Minister Discusses Peace Talks

NC3007102594 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Jordanian Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani in Washington by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Good morning, Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, and welcome to Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-'Anani] Good morning.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. al-'Anani: Without diplomatic language, what is Jordan's position on Jerusalem and the Islamic sites there and is there a crisis between you and the PLO over this issue?

[Al-'Anani] First of all, the declaration did not talk about Jerusalem, but about the Islamic sites in Jerusalem. Second, Jordan recognizes and acknowledges the Palestinians' political sovereignty over Jerusalem and is not challenging this at all. The declaration mentioned that Jordan, through its Ministry of Awqaf and its institutions, has played and is playing a major role in safeguarding the Islamic sacred sites in Jerusalem. All that has been said is that when the time comes to discuss the final status of Jerusalem, these things will be taken into consideration, but only from the religious and not the political or geographical areas.

[Abu-al-Majd] But why couldn't the religious jurisdiction as well go to the PLO, should it take over Jerusalem in the final stage?

[Al-'Anani] We are absolutely not saying anything different on this matter. We have not said this will not be the case. All the statement has said is that the long history and specific status of His Majesty King Husayn and the Hashemite family will be taken into consideration when the time comes to discuss the final status of this matter. I do not believe there is any source of disagreement on this matter. Some just do not read the statement carefully or generalize things that are not mentioned in the text of the statement. Earlier you talked about the question of Jerusalem, but Jerusalem is not the issue. The issue is the Islamic sacred sites in this holy city.

[Abu-al-Majd] But are you ready to acknowledge the PLO's religious sovereignty over Jerusalem should the PLO ask you to?

[Al-'Anani] First we must note that discussion on the Jerusalem issue has been postponed under an agreement between the PLO and Israel, and Jordan had nothing to do with this. When Jordan gave up sovereignty in 1988 it handed it over to the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative as far as Jerusalem is concerned. But we cannot leave a vacuum during the transition period so long as the Ministry of Awqaf is now safeguarding the sacred sites in Jerusalem and so long as the PLO cannot assume this role during the transition period. In the final stage, if Jerusalem's jurisdiction and political and geographical sovereignty returns to the PLO and to the Palestinians, Jordan will be the first to acknowledge, recognize, and even demand this.

[Abu-al-Majd] Are you coordinating with the PLO in this regard? A few hours ago a meeting was held between the Jordanian and Palestinian delegates to the Arab League under the auspices of Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. Did you coordinate with the PLO in this regard, particularly since we notice that at this stage the Palestinians are concentrating on this matter?

[Al-'Anani] We call for coordination not only over this matter but in all subjects. We insist on coordination because we do not want to leave any room for creating a gap, God forbid, in the position of the negotiating Arab states that may not be in their interest. Jordan strongly calls for coordination.

[Abu-al-Majd] You issued a statement in Amman yesterday on Jordan's historic role in exercising historic jurisdiction on Islamic sanctities in Jerusalem. Was that statement an attempt to mend fences with the PLO?

[Al-'Anani] In fact we see absolutely no problem with the PLO, the Palestinian National Authority, or any other

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party where that matter is concerned. We issued the statement to explain and clarify matters. Those who generalize without reading the Washington Declaration clearly must read it once again. As I said before, Jordan has absolutely no geographic or political ambitions where the Palestinians are concerned. Jordan made that decision a long time ago.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. Jawad, let us go back to the Jordanian-Israeli track in the peace process. You recently signed a joint declaration with Israel in the U.S. capital. Will a peace agreement be signed soon? More specifically, when will such an agreement be signed?

[Al-'Anani] That is a prediction I cannot make. I cannot answer that question. The point is to finish discussing the items on the agenda. It is not a matter of time or date. However, some like to analyze. If Israel is ready to finish all the items on the agenda, the situation will be different. For now, I am not in a position to talk about any date.

[Abu-al-Majd] For your part, what will the focus of your talks on the Jordanian-Israeli track be until such an agreement is concluded?

[Al-'Anani] We will focus on resolving all the issues on the agenda signed between Jordan and Israel on 13-14 September 1993. These include the need to reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution for the Arab Israeli conflict and to resolve the problems related to security, lands, water, borders, refugees, and evacuees.

[Abu-al-Majd] Has the Israeli side shown cooperation in these fields after signing that declaration?

[Al-'Anani] We sensed much more willingness in the past month. However, no negotiations have been held since the declaration was signed in Washington.

[Abu-al-Majd] When will negotiations be held?

[Al-'Anani] On 8 August 1994.

[Abu-al-Majd] Considerable progress was made along the Jordanian-Israeli track in the past few days. Have you talked to the United States or Israel about achieving progress along other tracks, the Syrian-Israeli or the Lebanese-Israeli tracks, particularly since Jordan has always said that it seeks a just and comprehensive peace in the region?

[Al-'Anani] If you refer to statements by the Israeli prime minister and the U.S. President, you will find that in every speech, statement, and press conference everybody talked about the need for comprehensive peace. We reiterated that stand, without violating the privacy of the Syrian track. We accept nothing short of a comprehensive peace.

[Abu-al-Majd] At the end of this interview, we thank Jordanian Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani.

[Al-'Anani] You are welcome.

Further Discusses Jerusalem, Talks

TA3007140694 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Report on telephone interview with Jordan's Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani in Washington by 'Adi Talmor in the studios on 29 July; al-'Anani's remarks are in English; italicized passages are recorded]

[Text] My first question was: How come Amman declared its support for the PLO's claim to control East Jerusalem.

[Al-'Anani] *Well, it is very funny because Jordan, of course, naturally wants the application of Resolution 242, and that is exchange of land or territory for peace. Naturally, we think that East Jerusalem is an occupied territory that should be given back to its rightful owners.*

[Talmor translates the above and continues] The rightful owners are the Palestinians under the leadership of the PLO. As you will recall, he said, in 1988, Jordan gave up its political rights on the West bank, therefore the owners of the bank and East Jerusalem are the Palestinians under the PLO's leadership. Territorial sovereignty over East Jerusalem must be with the Palestinians and not Jordan. In reference to the Islamic holy places in East Jerusalem, the Jordanian information minister said:

[Al-'Anani] *The holy places right now, what happens in the Washington Declaration, I think there has been a misreading of this declaration because the declaration, which was, I believe....*

[Talmor, interrupting, translates the above and continues] He said the declaration was apparently misunderstood by the PLO and the Palestinians. The declaration merely says that within the framework of the final arrangement in East Jerusalem, Jordanian involvement and the roles it has fulfilled in the Islamic holy places in East Jerusalem would be taken into consideration. That is all.

[Al-'Anani] *But it seems to me that they have not read the Washington Declaration very carefully, and I think they should read it, because if they read it, I do not think there will be any room for misunderstanding on this particular problem. What the Jordanian Government did yesterday was to explain it position.*

[Talmor translates the above and continues] When I asked him when Husayn plans to come to Jerusalem, al-'Anani replied: I do not think that it will take place soon, but another meeting between the king and Yitzhaq Rabin will probably take place very soon. When I asked whether King Husayn plans to do anything to improve the tense relations with Yasir 'Arafat, the Jordanian minister replied with caution.

[Al-'Anani] *We in Jordan do not personalize relationships. We think Mr. 'Arafat is the chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, and he is head of the Palestinian people. In that capacity, you know, we*

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should work with him to help him overcome his problem, and also to create proper atmospherics for a more productive work between Jordan and the Palestinians.

Will Jordan be prepared to sign a separate peace accord with Israel without waiting for Syria or Lebanon, I asked him. Yes, the Jordanian information minister replied, the moment the negotiations on the joint Israeli-Jordanian issues are finalized, we will be prepared to sign a peace accord, which will serve the main aim of all of us, to reach a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Do you think the events in Washington influence the Syrian president to speed up the negotiations with Israel on a peace accord, I asked him.

[Al-'Anani] *Well I believe that the real progress that we hope we will witness very soon on the outstanding issues between Jordan and Israel will really give a precedent that Israel is willing to engage in real peace, and I am sure that it will have a positive influence on the Syrian president.*

Do you support the Syrian demand for a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights?

[Al-'Anani] *Yes, sir. I really believe so because I think Israel should take very seriously President al-Asad's proposal that he wants total peace for total withdrawal. I think this is a very good beginning and start that both parties can build on in order to arrive at real peace.*

Finally, I asked the Jordanian minister how he views future relations between Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians.

[Al-'Anani] *We can resolve all those political substantive issues, I think, which are not too difficult to resolve, if we finally believe in real peace....*

[Talmor, interrupting, translates the above, and continues] Then there will be room for wide-ranging and fruitful cooperation between the sides, which will lead to excellent results. I am convinced that our leaders are waiting for the day that they can improve the state of their countries and make them among the richest in the world, al-'Anani said.

'Positive' Steps Expected on Syrian-Israeli Track

JN3007083294 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 30 Jul 94 pp 1, 14

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[Excerpt] 'Abbas Zaki, member of Fatah Central Committees, has revealed to AL-ASWAQ that the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations is expected to witness positive developments within the next few days. Political observers say that these negotiations are currently going through a decisive stage and not along a dead-end road.

'Abbas Zaki, who accompanied Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, during his visit to Damascus last week, said that during its meetings with Syrian officials, the Palestinian delegation very clearly sensed that the Syrian leadership intends to reach a comprehensive settlement during its negotiations with the Israeli side. He added: Fatah wishes the Syrian leadership success in reaching this settlement to restore its rights to sovereignty over its territories, foremost of which is the Golan Heights. [passage omitted]

Shahal, Sha'th Discuss Prisoner Release

TA0108121694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] In Tel Aviv, Police Minister Moshe Shahal and PLO official Nabil Sha'th held lengthy negotiations. Their talk focused on ways to advance the peace process in general and Palestinian-Israeli relations in particular. They also discussed ways of improving procedures at the crossing points at Rafah and elsewhere. Sha'th said there had been a lengthy discussion on the future release of Palestinian prisoners and on improving conditions for prisoners still in jail.

Minister Shahal pointed out that under the agreement between them, Israel has pledged to release 5,000 prisoners, and some 4,500 had already been set free. Discussions will continue regarding release of others who do not have blood on their hands.

[Reporting on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 1 August, reporter Shim'on Vilna'i adds: "Dr. Sha'th was accompanied at the meeting by Muhammad Dahlan, head of the Gaza General Security Services, and Hisham 'Abd-al-Razzaq, an adviser to 'Arafat."

[The report cites Police Minister Shahal as saying after the meeting with Sha'th that "with the prime minister's approval, nine or 10 Palestinian female security prisoners will be released very soon."

[Vilna'i adds that when asked about the closure of AL-NAHAR, Sha'th said "the newspaper failed to follow procedures. After it is registered with the Interior Ministry in accordance with regulations, we will reconsider its publication in East Jerusalem."]

After the meeting, reporter Alan Ben-'Ami asked Sha'th what he sees as the main issue still to be resolved in the early empowerment talks that had begun in Cairo:

[Begin Sha'th recording] I'll be joining these talks this evening, I hope. We have made very good progress in the last two weeks. I would say that by the end of this week, maximum by the beginning of next week, we would have finished the five spheres of early empowerment of education and culture, health, tourism, social affairs, and taxation, and we would be ready to start implementing them.

Therefore, the peace process will reach the West Bank as soon as possible, and we will start immediately after this, maybe on the eighth of August, negotiations on the elections. The important thing is to reach an agreement on the election and its requirements. Once we reach this agreement, we will need some processes of registration

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and so on. I hope this will not be delayed beyond the end of this year. [end recording]

Sha'th was also asked about the question of Jerusalem, and said this would be resolved only in the final negotiations regarding a permanent status for the territories.

[Begin Sha'th recording] In these permanent negotiations, our position will be that Arab Jerusalem—East Jerusalem—should be free and should become the capital of a Palestinian independent state that will emerge as a result of negotiations on the permanent state. Until that happens, we would like to see Jerusalem open, we would like to see freedom of worship, we would like to see prosperity for the Arab Palestinian community and its institutions, and we would like to see a position that does not preempt the negotiations on a permanent settlement. We respect our agreement that when these negotiations come, each party will present its views, and we will come out with a satisfactory solution as a result of negotiations. [end recording]

[Vilna'i's report on Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew carries a recording of Minister Shahal, who says in response to the Sha'th remarks on Jerusalem: "United Jerusalem is under Israeli sovereignty; it has been so for 27 years, and it will remain so in the future. As for declarations, we agreed that the Jerusalem issue will not be discussed before the permanent status negotiations."]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Comments on Jerusalem Status

'Nobody Has Right To Interfere'

JN3007092094 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has reiterated the commitment of the Palestinian National Authority and the PLO not to relinquish the city of Jerusalem, stressing that Jerusalem is a Palestinian issue. He added that nobody has the right to interfere in this issue in accordance with the principle of noninterference in others' affairs and with the resolutions of the Arab League and the African and nonaligned summits. This came during President 'Arafat's meetings yesterday with various delegations from the occupied territory.

President 'Arafat said that Israel wanted to raise the issue of Jerusalem and include it in the Washington Declaration signed with Jordan, in order to obstruct the National Authority's performance of its tasks.

In Paris, the official spokesman of the French Foreign Ministry said that East Jerusalem is part of the occupied territory, in accordance with the UN resolutions, adding that steps cannot be taken by one side to define the fate of this city. The French spokesman said: Solving the issue of Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territory can only be achieved through holding talks between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

This is the first official French reaction following the signing of the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel, in accordance with which Israel granted Jordan a special religious role in Jerusalem.

Sends Letter to Christopher

JN3107082494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat yesterday sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher concerning the Palestinian stand on the Jerusalem clause in the Washington Declaration.

President 'Arafat stressed in his letter that the Palestinians object to this clause. President 'Arafat also mentioned in the letter that any harm done to Palestinian rights in the holy city endangers the peace process.

States Stance on City, Detainees

JN3107084194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] At a meeting with popular and official delegations, President Yasir 'Arafat has spoken about Jerusalem, the detainees, and the hardships sustained until the establishment of the independent state.

With regard to Jerusalem, President 'Arafat emphasized the importance of not changing its features. He added that the future of Jerusalem will be determined during the final negotiations which will begin as soon as possible. He added that the Palestinian side agreed with the Israelis to allow the Jerusalem inhabitants to participate in the elections in terms of nomination and voting.

President 'Arafat said that there still is a long way to go before we raise the Palestinian flag on the mosques and churches of Jerusalem. He said he does not have a magic wand to settle problems. He added, however, that he has great confidence in the people who are capable of forging miracles, and that these people are the difficult figure no one in the world can cancel.

President 'Arafat emphasized that he refuses to bargain over the issue of the detainees, that this issue is an indivisible whole, and that he will continue to work for releasing the detainees.

Demands Immediate Negotiations

TA0108123894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat is demanding that the negotiations over Jerusalem begin at once. In a news conference in Gaza city, 'Arafat said that although the Declaration of Principles stipulates that the negotiations on Jerusalem will start no later than the beginning of the third year; Israel apparently precipitated the debate by granting priority to Jordan. Therefore, 'Arafat asserted, the Palestinians are insisting that the negotiations commence

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immediately and will also demand that Jerusalem become the capital of the Palestinian state.

Comments on Stance, UN Accords

NC0108135494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1220 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Gaza, 1 Aug (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has stated that the Palestinian stance on Jerusalem is obvious and public. "Jerusalem is the capital of our independent state," he said. In press statements he added that Jerusalem is not just a religious and political issue because it contains holy sites.

He said any newspaper to be launched must obtain permission from the Palestinian National Authority, not any other source. He was answering a question on the closure of the Palestinian newspaper AL- NAHAR.

An agreement was signed here today under the patronage of the Palestinian president between the Palestinian National Authority and the UN Development Program [UNDP]. Under the agreement, the UNDP, with Japanese funding, will implement a project to prop up the economy and the environment in the Gaza Strip to the tune of $5 million and will refurbish the Gaza municipality. The project will begin late this month and is expected to be completed in nine months.

Another agreement was signed under which the UNDP, with finance from Japan worth $10 million, will build housing units for the families of the Palestinian police. Some 280 Palestinian policemen's families will benefit from the project.

The two agreements were signed for the Palestinian side by Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, minister of housing in the Palestinian National Authority; for the Japanese Government by Japan's Ambassador in Israel Katsuhisa Uchida; and for the UNDP by Timothy Rosemill [name as transliterated], UNDP director for the Palestinian people.

In a brief speech, 'Arafat described the signing of the two agreements as a good start. Thanking the Japanese Government, he said this pioneering effort by Japan to build houses for the Palestinian police is an important measure. He also thanked Dr. Butrus-Ghali for the United Nations' support for the self-rule authority.

Dr. al-Agha said that supporting the Palestinian people is an effort for the sake of peace and stability.

PNA Officials State Position on Jerusalem Issue

Member Asserts Sovereignty

JN3007182194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1635 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Interview with Ilyas Frayj, "minister" of tourism and antiquities in the Palestinian National Authority, PNA, by unidentified correspondent in Gaza on 30 July—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Would you fill us in on what went on in the ministerial session today with brother President Yasir 'Arafat?

[Frayj] It was a four-hour session; however, the most important topic that came up was the question of Jerusalem. The decision made underscores the Palestinian Arab sovereignty over occupied East Jerusalem territorially and in terms of its population and sacred places.

[Correspondent] Brother Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership have given their blessing to the progress made on the Jordanian-Israeli track. However, statements have emanated from the Royal Palace, a Jordanian Government spokesman, and King Husayn himself to the effect that nobody has the right to exercise control over the Jordanian monarch's visit to Jerusalem. How do you respond?

[Frayj] We welcome the agreement Jordan reached with Israel and wish Jordan every success and advancement and peace. As for any visit to Jerusalem, this is private business for the person concerned to decide on. However, I hope that all parties take into account that Jerusalem is now under Israel's total control. It is up to the person concerned to visit Jerusalem while Israel's flag flies there. If he wants to wait, this, again, is for him to decide.

[Correspondent] But, according to the agreement concluded between the PLO and Israel, the Jerusalem issue will wait for the final status negotiations. How do you explain Israel putting the Jerusalem issue on the agenda now?

[Frayj] We will not concern ourselves with Israel's plans, whether these are well-meaning or not. There is an American-sponsored Israeli-Palestinian accord that all matters related to the occupied territory, including Jerusalem, will be discussed two years after the implementation of the self-rule. We will, in good time, address all issues with a view to working out a final settlement that should ensure our sovereignty over Jerusalem, which was occupied in 1967.

[Correspondent] President Yasir 'Arafat told Warren Christopher in this place that Rabin has no business inviting anyone to make a visit to Jerusalem. This is a prerogative of brother Yasir 'Arafat. The United states is the key sponsor of the peace conference. How do you explain the press statements by the king and his cabinet and ministers, at this time in particular.

[Frayj] We do not want a dispute with Jordan. We want to have complete agreement and coordination with Jordan. I wish all the parties concerned—Palestinians and Jordanians alike—would exercise restraint and approach things with wisdom, coolness, and sobriety. We are family and share a common destiny. The country is still under Israeli occupation. Jerusalem is occupied Palestinian territory. It is a Palestinian city and will remain so for eternity.

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[Correspondent] How do you explain the unsubstantiated or irresponsible Israeli and American statements?

[Frayj] I have nothing to say about that. What interests me are facts on the ground. I want to see the process bring about a just and durable peace move forward. Naturally, Israel has its own sinister intentions. We know Israel's influence on American policy; indeed, everyone knows that. We must now focus on the positive side to advance our objectives of freedom and independence.

[Correspondent] Jordanian media have said that Jordan will have control over the Islamic holy places and that they support and approve of the PLO gaining political control over Jerusalem. How does brother Ilyas Frayj respond to that?

[Frayj] Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem will incorporate the land, the population, and the holy Islamic and Christian sites. Jerusalem is Palestine.

[Correspondent] Yasir 'Arafat has often stated that he will honor the 'Umarite Covenant, reached between Caliph 'Umar and the Christian Archbishop in Jerusalem about 1,400 Years ago. However, certain people are not being faithful to that. Would you comment?

[Frayj] We live in irregular circumstances; this applies to many quarters and to people on different levels. However, the 'Umarite Covenant is a historical covenant and the first of its kind in history that ensured Islamic-Christian brotherhood and provided for legitimate Christian and Islamic rights. It is the constitution by which we go, Muslims and Christians, Palestinians and non- Palestinians.

[Correspondent] Our radio has learned that today's PNA session decided to send a ministerial delegation for talks with Jordanian officials. Can you confirm the report?

[Frayj] This is for President Yasir 'Arafat to decide.

[Correspondent] What is your message to His Majesty King Husayn and the Jordanian people?

[Frayj] I will tell his majesty that Jordanians and Palestinians are family and brothers through thick and thin. Whatever distresses them distresses us and whatever cheers them likewise cheers us. What hurts us hurts them and vice versa. We are family and must remain so and nurture our bonds of brotherhood and friendship and family ties. We must hold our emotions in check and listen to the voice of reason rather than emotion.

To Discuss Issue in Jordan

JN3107084494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] The Palestinian National Authority [PNA] has decided to send a delegation to Amman as soon as possible to discuss the issue of Jerusalem with the Jordanians.

This decision came following the signing by Israel and Jordan of the Washington Declaration, which contains a clause on Jerusalem stating that Jordan will have a special role with respect to the holy shrines in Jerusalem.

Al-Husayni on Talks

JN3107160894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1415 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, "minister" of planning and international cooperation in the PNA by an unidentified radio correspondent "a short while ago"; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the PNA [Palestinian National Authority], good evening.

[Sha'th] Good evening.

[Correspondent] The PNA decided at the end of its meetings yesterday to send a delegation to the Jordanian capital to hold discussions with Jordanian officials. When will the delegation leave? Who are the members of the delegation? And what are the topics the delegation will discuss with Jordanian officials?

[Sha'th] Soon, that is, within the next few days. The delegation will be led by brother Faysal al-Husayni. The discussion will cover overall Palestinian-Jordanian issues, as well as the developments in the peace process. We should also exchange answers to many questions. We are embarking on joint action, and the issues we face are difficult, particularly the issue of Jerusalem. We must have no doubts or differences about this issue.

[Correspondent] Do you expect easy talks with the Jordanian side regarding this issue, in light of the Washington Declaration?

[Sha'th] Nothing is easy. However, intentions are good, so there will be no battle between Jordan and Palestine over Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the basis of our armed struggle with Israel; and it is now the basis of our peaceful struggle regarding Palestinian rights, particularly their right to Jerusalem as the capital of their independent state. Therefore, the issue of Jerusalem is not just a religious one. Even the religious aspect is not confined to the Islamic places. We are in charge of all Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem. His Beatitude Patriarch Michel al-Sabbah today was on a visit to brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] here in Gaza to reiterate this Palestinian responsibility toward all the holy places in Jerusalem.

Issues about Jerusalem will be discussed by the Palestinians and Israelis in the final stage. We need all Arab, Islamic, and international support in our talks on issues related to Jerusalem between now and the final status, such as preserving Arab and Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem and freedom of worship. The relationship

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with Jordan must stem from cooperation and from our joint commitment to Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

'Urayqat on Jerusalem Status

NC0108094294 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Sa'ib 'Urayqat, "minister" of local government in the Palestinian National Authority, in Jericho, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Good morning, Dr. 'Urayqat.

['Urayqat] Good morning to you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] We would like to start this dialogue with the Jerusalem file or status of the city, which is currently occupying a fair share of interest in the arena of discussions among observers of the negotiations. Could we learn about the Palestinian stand with regard to Jerusalem in light of statements that have recently emerged from Israel?

['Urayqat] First, the Palestinian stand on Jerusalem is a stand based on international consensus stipulating that Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the land occupied in 1967. In other words, Resolution 242, whose introduction stipulates the inadmissibility of the occupation of the land of others by force, applies to East Jerusalem exactly as it applies to the occupied Golan Heights, the occupied Lebanese territories, the occupied Jordanian territory, or the occupied Palestinian territories. This is a basic principle. In other words, Israel has no sovereignty rights over Jerusalem whatsoever; its authority over Jerusalem is that of an occupying power, that is, by imposing coercion, oppression, and force. If we go back in time, we find that since 1967, 12 Security Council resolutions have been issued, the most recent of which was Resolution 904 stipulating that East Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the occupied Palestinian territories of 1967. This is the basic stand the Palestinian leadership and authority adopt and this is what President Yasir 'Arafat has repeatedly expressed when saying that Jerusalem is the key to real peace.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Could we highlight some parts of the agreement between you and Israel regarding Jerusalem?

['Urayqat] The agreement contained two paragraphs about Jerusalem. The first paragraph stipulated that the final status of Jerusalem will be negotiated at the beginning of the third year of the transitional stage or as soon as possible, that is, possibly even before that. And the other paragraph in the agreement stipulated the participation of the residents of East Jerusalem in the elections of the Palestinian legislative council. In other words, the agreement stipulated that the issue of sovereignty over Jerusalem will be discussed in less than two years. It also stipulated that the residents of East Jerusalem will take part in the election process, both by nominating themselves and by voting, exactly as will the rest of the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] In other words, Rabin's statements after his meeting with President Mubarak in Taba declared that they—that is, Israel—are committed to negotiating with you over the Jerusalem issue. This is what the agreement says. However, he also says that Jerusalem will remain united under Israeli sovereignty. How do you explain these statements?

['Urayqat] First of all, we cannot stand guard over Rabin's lips, or the lips of any other Israeli officials who make so many statements about an issue which they know very well is the center of discussions not only on the Palestinian-Israeli level, but also on a more comprehensive level. In other words, if Israel wants peace with the Arabs, including Egypt, it should realize that real peace cannot be accomplished except through Israeli withdrawal from East Jerusalem and returning Jerusalem to Palestinian sovereignty. This is clear from what Rabin says. But Rabin's actions reveal two things: The first thing is to impose a fait accompli on the land by establishing and increasing settlements, reclaiming more land, and making geographic, demographic, and historical changes in this holy city. This is the real danger facing Jerusalem and we need to be alert to this issue. The other issue is his attempts at distributing duties to those who have civil and religious duties in Jerusalem. This is rejected in part and in toto. Israel does not have the right to practice sovereign tasks, even down to ordering some office or other closed or open, or that this place of worship will be under the control of this party or that, except from one point of view. This is to impose things by force as an occupying power, not as an authority with sovereignty over the city.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. 'Urayqat, what will your moves during the coming stage be, particularly after the resolution taken by the Israeli cabinet to ban governmental activities of Palestinian figures and institutions inside Jerusalem?

['Urayqat] There are over 250 Palestinian institutions operating in East Jerusalem. A part of the agreement stipulates that the activities of these institutions will not be diminished. We are here talking about cultural, religious, social, economic, sports, and entertainment institutions. In other words, they cannot really implement such a resolution even if they wanted to. All we wish to say now is that we need to pay attention to Israeli attempts whose objective is to break Arab ranks and create inter-Arab disputes because the problem lies in actual Israeli behavior in Jerusalem, that is settlement, expropriation of land, and attempts at changing the demography and history of the city. Therefore, what is now required is to unite Arab efforts to emerge with a unified strategy to save Jerusalem from Israeli practices. The danger stems from Israel's actual practices, not the statements made here and there. Therefore, we need to

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be aware of this fact. A decision was made during the recent Palestinian National Authority meeting to form a Palestinian delegation to travel to Jordan and discuss these and other matters regarding coordination. There was also a Palestinian request to hold a meeting of the Arab League. This is also why Palestinian diplomacy is moving in more than one direction because the real dangers threatening Jerusalem are the continuing attempts by Israel to impose a fait accompli. This is really what we have to be aware of. We also need to realize, as Arabs, that we should not fall into the trap of internal conflicts as a result of Israel's practices, which is what Rabin and others want. Therefore, the time has truly come for all Arab countries, for the Islamic and Christian worlds, to take action to confirm what was stipulated in the Declaration of Principles and what international legitimacy has been asserting since 1967. Even the United States acknowledges that East Jerusalem is an indivisible part of the Arab territories which were occupied in 1967.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] But in light of raising the issue of Jerusalem, what is the objective behind raising this issue at this time?

['Urayqat] As you have said, the Jerusalem issue is an issue on the Palestinian and Arab agenda at every point. The issue of Jerusalem is always brought to the forefront as a result of Israel's practices there. When we agreed not to negotiate over Jerusalem until the final stages, we said that that does not compromise the issue of Jerusalem. In other words, no party has the right to take measures and make arrangements that could compromise the status of Jerusalem. Therefore, the Jerusalem subject is an issue that is raised at every point in time. What raises the subject of Jerusalem all the time is Israel's violation of the agreement in letter and spirit, through its settlement activities and expropriation of land in Jerusalem.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, while we are with you over the open phone lines between Cairo and Jericho, we thank you very much and welcome you on the Voice of the Arabs.

['Urayqat] Thank you.

PLO Voices Stance on Jerusalem Issues

PLO, Jordanian Views Detailed

NC3007170094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—The provision of the Washington Declaration signed by Jordan's King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin last Monday [25 July] concerning Jordan's supervision of holy places in Jerusalem is still causing problems.

In a statement to MENA, Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has accused Israel of trying through this provision to sow the seeds of dispute and division between Arab parties. He said the PLO is committed to its goal to establish a Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

He reiterated the PNA's stand not to engage in inter-Arab battles and said that there is an Arab commitment to grant the Palestinians political sovereignty over Jerusalem. As for the religious commitment, he added, this has been an Arab obligation, noting that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement guarantees this.

The day before yesterday, Thursday, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid managed to contain differences between the Palestinian and Jordanian sides on the provision stipulating Jordan's religious supervision of Jerusalem's holy places.

Palestine has called for an Arab League urgent session at the permanent delegates level to discuss this provision. During the meeting that Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid held at the Arab League headquarters in the presence of the permanent delegates of Jordan, Palestine, and Egypt, in addition to Ambassador Sa'id Kamal, Arab League assistant secretary general for Palestinian affairs, there was an emphasis on separating the political sovereignty that is the Palestinian side's right and the religious supervision of the holy places that is not exclusive to one single party.

However, the Jordanian Government issued a statement yesterday regarding Jerusalem as an Islamic Arab land occupied in 1967 and as part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's territories.

Ambassador Muhammad Subayh, the Palestinian permanent delegate at the Arab League, reacted to the Jordanian statement. He said that Arab summits, particularly the Rabat summit, regarded the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative and that the PLO has the right to political and legal jurisdiction over the Gaza Strip and the West bank, including holy Jerusalem. He added that all Arab summits asserted that holy Jerusalem is the capital of the Palestinian state.

In statements made to MENA today, Ambassador Subayh said there should be no misunderstanding or confusion about the fact that Palestinian rights to Jerusalem are firm and not subject to interpretation. He affirmed that Jerusalem—land, holy places, and population—is an inseparable part of the occupied West Bank. He noted that this is the gist of scores of UN Security Council resolutions concerning Jerusalem, including Resolutions 242, 252, and 977.

Subayh emphasized that dividing Jerusalem into legal, political, and religious "issues" does not serve the Jerusalem cause and that all Muslim and Christian believers have the right to Jerusalem.

He said Jordan had supervised and still supervises the awqaf [Islamic endowments] and religious sanctities in coordination with the PLO. He added that Jordan had previously clarified that it will continue this supervision

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until the initiation of negotiations between the Palestinian side and Israel on the basis of the Oslo Agreement signed by the United States and Russia as witnesses.

Subayh said the Oslo Agreement stipulates that Jerusalem be placed on the agenda at the beginning of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations' final phase, which should not exceed two years. Besides, he added, Israel has agreed to hold elections for the Jerusalem residents and that nominations and the election be held inside the city.

He noted that Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres sent a message to the late Norwegian Foreign Minister, Jorgen Holst, a copy of which was received by the PLO, stating that Israel will preserve and not harm the Palestinian religious, tourist, and education sites.

Palestinian Ambassador Subayh went on to say that prominent Palestinian politician Faysal al-Husayni, the son of Jerusalem, is chairing a committee on the issue of Jerusalem with the agreement of the Israeli side. He stressed that all Israeli attempts to create splits between the brothers in the Arab ranks will not succeed and that there are Palestinian, Arab, Islamic, and Christian red lines on the Jerusalem issue that do not allow the city to be under Israel's sovereignty or its capital. He added that Arab and world public opinion regard the city as the capital of the Palestinian state and that its fate should not be decided unilaterally.

On the other hand, Nayif al-Qadi, Jordan's ambassador in Cairo and its permanent representative to the Arab League, said that the media has distorted the Jordanian declaration on Jerusalem, which was issued yesterday. In this respect, he accused some parties that he did not identify of seeking to split the Arab ranks and create disputes at this critical phase of the negotiations.

In his statements to MENA today, the Jordanian ambassador said that no one should forget that negotiations over the Jerusalem issue are not due for another two years and therefore there should be no disputes over it at present. He went on to say that Jordan's stance on Jerusalem and the holy places is known and is based on the known principle that Jerusalem is an Arab, Islamic land occupied in 1967 when it was part of the territories of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, adding that this applies to the occupied Arab territories that were included in UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Ambassador al-Qadi then said that, on the basis of the Rabat summit of 1974, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan recognizes the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that out of its commitment to this resolution Jordan has backed the PLO and has coordinated with it to attain Arab rights in the occupied territories. He said that Jordan decided in 1988 to disengage its legal and administrative ties with the West Bank to enable the Palestinian Arab people to set up an independent state on national soil.

The Jordanian ambassador added: To emphasize the Palestinian identity and personality, it was decided to exclude the awqafs, Islamic affairs and holy places, and the religious courts in the holy city from Jordan's decision to disengage from the West Bank while Jordanians continued to take care of the holy places and protect them from falling directly under the authority and control of the Israeli occupation. He noted that the PLO blessed and approved this decision, which has remained in effect to this day.

Ambassador al-Qadi said that there is a confusion between the restoration of political sovereignty over Jerusalem through the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and Jordan's continued sponsorship of the holy places and religious supervision of them. He added that Jordan stresses that what the Washington Declaration stated was a recognition and an affirmation of Jordan's role during the period of linkage between Palestine and Jordan [1948-1988] and following the recognition of the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the disengagement decision of 1988. He said that Jordan's role was manifested through his country's sponsorship of repairs and maintenance of the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in the years 1924, 1944, 1952, and 1994.

The Jordanian ambassador stressed that his country remains committed to the principled stances on Jerusalem, its land and holy places, and is also committed to the international resolutions and to its backing for the PLO in the endeavors to obtain political and geographical sovereignty over all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. He also stressed that Jordan will continue its historic role of taking care of the holy places and believes that its ties to them are the result of a belief and a creed and not of an interest or a desire to control and have hegemony.

On the other hand, diplomatic Palestinian sources in Cairo said that the Jerusalem issue is one of the gravest challenges that the PNA will face, especially in light of Israel's persistence in regarding the city as its eternal capital.

The sources added that Israel is at present seeking to increase the number of Israelis in east Jerusalem so that the Jews and not the Arabs will be the majority, as this will be reflected in any future elections. The same sources explained that Israel is seeking to achieve this majority by employing several means that range between pressure, intimidation, and enticement of the Arabs to leave it by offering attractive prices for their houses and possessions in Jerusalem.

Warns UN; Jordan Reacts

NC3107080494 Paris AFP in English 2046 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 30 (AFP)—The PLO has warned the United Nations that Israel's pledge to

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give high priority to Jordan's role in Jerusalem could endanger the peace process, the official Palestinian news agency WAFA reported Saturday [30 July].

PLO representative at the United Nations Nasir al-Qidwa informed the UN of the organisation's opposition to the Israeli pledge, in a message conveyed Friday to Secretary General Butros Butros-Ghali and Security Council acting president Jamsheed Marker.

The PLO said that under the PLO-Israeli Declaration of Principles signed last September discussions on the final status of the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, should start in about two years and be left to "Israel and representatives of the Palestinian people."

"The PLO calls on Israel to stand by its commitments on this issue as stated in the Declaration of Principles," the message said. "Any legislation or action that might hamper the activities of Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem would be a clear violation of the text and spirit of the Declaration of Principles, and would harm the peace process."

In Amman, Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali said Saturday he was "astonished by the uproar" over the issue, adding that Jordan supported Palestinian claims over East Jerusalem. King Husayn of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin signed a declaration in Washington Monday saying Israel would give "high priority to the Jordanian historic role" in the Moslem shrines in Jerusalem.

Israel seized East Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war and has declared the united city to be its eternal capital. But the PLO wants East Jerusalem, site of some of Islam's holiest shrines, to become the capital of a future Palestinian state.

Yasir 'Arafat contacted U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Saturday and decided to send a delegation to Jordan to express Palestinian concern over the Jerusalem issue, said Nabil Abu Rodeina, one of the PLO chairman's aides.

'Arafat warned that "any attack on the Palestinians' rights threatens the entire peace process" and stressed that East Jerusalem was "an integral part" of the occupied territories.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian Authority chaired by 'Arafat decided to send a delegation to Amman to put the Palestinian view to Jordanian officials. Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian "ambassador" to Jordan, was due to join the delegation.

Reacting to the PLO announcement, al-Majali told Jordanian television his country had "always exercised a right of religious sovereignty since 1948" over the Moslem shrines, "and preserved it after 1967 and the break in administrative and legal ties between Jordan and the West Bank in 1988."

Monday's Washington summit "confirmed Jordan's right," he said. "This sovereignty in no way contradicts the struggle of the Palestinian people, which we support with all our strength so that they recover their rights over Jerusalem." Al-Majali said Jordan had obtained "recognition of all its rights" at the summit.

The Washington Declaration ended a 46-year state of war between Israel and Jordan.

Letter to UN Detailed

LD3107182694 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] The PLO yesterday sent a letter to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, and the current president of the UN Security Council, Jamshed Marker, on the PLO's stance regarding the Jerusalem clause in the Washington Declaration signed on 25 July by Israel and Jordan.

Palestine's permanent representative at the UN requested for the letter to be circulated as an official UN document.

The letter stressed that Jerusalem remained an inseparable part of occupied Palestinian territories and remained a central issue for the Palestinian people, the Arab world, and the Islamic nation. It called on Israel to respect international legitimacy and adhere to the declaration of principles.

The letter included the following points:

1. Jerusalem remains an inseparable part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967. This position has been repeatedly confirmed by the UN General Assembly, and the UN Security Council in its Resolutions 681 of 1990, 726 of 1992, 799 of 1992, and 904 of 1994.

2. The international community has never accepted or agreed to external sovereignty or supreme guardianship for East Jerusalem. In its Resolutions 252 of 1968, 267 of 1969, 271 of 1969, 298 of 1971, 476 of 1980, and 478 of 1980, the UN Security Council regarded the Israeli measures and action aimed at changing the status of Jerusalem null and void, and called on Israel to stop all these measures and not to take any other measures towards that aim in the future.

3. Jerusalem will remain the central issue of the Palestinian people, the Arab world and the Islamic nation. Its holy places are of great significance to Muslims, Christians, and Jews throughout the world.

4. In clause five of the declaration of principles on the arrangements for self-rule signed in Washington on 13 September 1993 by the Israeli Government and the PLO and witnessed by the United States and the Russian Federation in their capacity as co-sponsors of the peace process, the two sides agreed that the final phase of the negotiation between Israel and representatives of the Palestinian people must begin at the earliest possible

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date and within a period that does not exceed the beginning of the third year of the transitional phase, and that these negotiations would cover the remaining issues, including Jerusalem. Consequently, no party has the right to adopt any action that may affect the negotiations or determine their outcome.

5. The Israeli Government has made a categorical undertaking that the Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem were of great importance and had to be safeguarded. Consequently, any legislation or action that may undermine these institutions or hinder their activities would constitute a clear breach of that undertaking and of the message and spirit of the declaration of principles and harm the progress of the peace process.

While stressing its commitment to the peace process, the PLO welcomes the progress made in the Jordanian-Israeli track, including the signing of the Washington declaration, and expresses its hope that the same progress would be achieved in the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks towards the realization of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East region. Meanwhile, it stresses the importance of the Jerusalem issue and calls for international legitimacy to be respected in that sphere. It also calls on Israel to adhere to the duties which were signed on its behalf in the declaration of principles in regards to that issue.

Hamas: Washington Declaration Breaches Arab Front

TA2907143094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Jul 94 pp 1, 23

[Report by 'Imad al-Ifranji]

[Text] Gaza—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has announced its rejection of the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel and of all the negotiating steps between the Arab parties and Israel, the ensuing agreements signed in Oslo and Cairo, and any agreements that will be signed in the future. Hamas considers the Washington Declaration to be a new breach in the Arab front and one of the negative results of the Madrid Conference.

The movement's statement, distributed yesterday in Gaza, notes that Jordan's new stance, represented in the signing of the Washington Declaration and the beginning of official normalization with Israel, constitutes a new collapse of the Arab position and a retreat from the previous Jordanian stance against the Oslo accord.

Hamas said: It is illogical and unacceptable to justify the drift toward Israel and the concessions to it by using the pretext that the Palestinian problem ended following the signing of the Cairo agreement. The Cairo agreement and the preceding agreements were signed by a PLO party that does not represent the opinion and will of the Palestinian people.

Hamas notes that Jordan's declaration on ending the state of war and embarking on a large-scale normalization process with Israel was issued before agreement was reached on basic issues relating to borders, occupied territories, and water, which were only briefly mentioned in the Washington Declaration.

Hamas warns that Jordan's new stance might push the Arab negotiating parties to compete to achieve progress in the talks with Israel and make more concessions in order to realize this objective. This will make it easier for Israel to attain its goals.

Hamas calls on all the Arab negotiating parties to abandon the approach of negotiations, which has proved its ineffectiveness in retrieving the Arab and Islamic nation's usurped rights of land, sanctities, and honor. It calls for adherence to national and Islamic principles and to the option of armed struggle.

Islamic Jihad Leader Views Jerusalem Status

JN3107095494 Amman AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 28 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by 'Isa al-Najjar]

[Text] Shaykh As'ad Bayyud al-Tamimi, [leader of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis] has emphasized that he does not recognize separation between East and West Jerusalem, and does not recognize a West Bank or an Israeli state.

The Islamic Jihad Movement leader said: From the Movement's point of view, Palestine is from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River, and from Ras al-Naqurah to Rafah. This land is a whole that cannot be divided. He said the ideas and divisions that are currently presented aim to entrench Greater Israel.

Shaykh al-Tamimi said the movement is not in a hurry because the result of the battle is destined to be as mentioned in the Koran and the prophet's sayings. He described the conflict as one that spans generations and urged those who feel tired to take rest, and said these people should not entrench Israel as a state. He said the current solutions aim to entrench Israel as a state and give most of Jerusalem to the Jews.

In his statement to AL-MUSTAQBAL, Shaykh al-Tamimi spoke about the historical nature of the battle and said that throughout history Jerusalem has been for the Muslims, and will continue to be so. He also spoke about the difficult conditions through which the Muslims passed, and said: During the Crusades, we experienced conditions worse than the present ones, but these did not last.

Al-Tamimi emphasized Arab and Islamic sovereignty over Jerusalem and said God's sovereignty over the shrines should be exercised by Muslims, not anybody else.

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Speaking about the 'Umar Covenant, Al-Tamimi said that the covenant preserved the rights of Christians and preserved their churches and religious symbols. As for the Jews, al-Tamimi said, throughout history, they had been passers-by, and had no presence in Jerusalem except when they lived there for 400 years during the days of David and Solomon, peace be upon them.

Shaykh al-Tamimi reiterated the Islamic Jihad Movement's rejection of the political arguments that justify giving Jerusalem to the Jews.

PNC Members Launch 'First' Move Against 'Arafat

TA2907155594 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 28 Jul 94 p 8

[Report by 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Arna'ut]

[Text] Jerusalem—AL-NAHAR has learned from informed Palestinian sources that some members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] have recently prepared a memorandum rejecting the convening of any PNC session in Gaza. The memorandum also totally rejects any change in the articles of the Palestinian National Charter, especially those relating to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and to armed struggle against the Israeli entity.

The sources noted that this document is currently being deliberated and signed by prominent Palestinian personalities. It has also been presented to members of the PNC, the PLO Central Committee, the Palestinian Authority, and to Palestinian economists and leading figures, as well as political officials. The sources said people "both inside and outside" are signing the document.

The recently signed Palestinian-Israeli agreement that is being implemented in Gaza and Jericho calls for changing articles in the charter, particularly those that call for armed struggle against Israel and do not recognize the Israeli entity on Palestinian territories. According to accepted principles and Palestinian laws, the charter cannot be amended without the approval of a majority of PNC members.

Palestinian organizations opposed to the agreement recently affirmed their strong objection to this change in the charter, as well as their opposition to convening the PNC in Gaza. A source close to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said to AL-NAHAR that it is inappropriate to convene a PNC session on territory that is not liberated in practice.

In a related development, sources close to the Palestinian People's Party have stressed that the issue of convening a PNC session in Gaza has not yet been raised in any official Palestinian circle. They said: So far, we have not given our view on this issue because it has not been raised in any official manner. After the issue is raised, we will state our opinion for or against.

This memorandum, which is considered the first political move rejecting Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's policy, will be presented to Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, the PNC speaker. The sources preparing the memorandum said "it will constitute a basis for popular activities in the future."

Hamas Denies Responsibility for London Bombings

MM2907121194 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jul 94 p 6

[Jamal Khashuqji report: "Hamas Denies Any Link With London Operations: Our Policy Is To Fight Occupation Inside Palestine"]

[Text] London—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has categorically denied any link with the two bombings against Israeli and Jewish targets in London or elsewhere.

Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, told AL-HAYAH over the telephone: "We cannot have any link with any operation outside occupied Palestine. Hamas' policy is legitimate resistance against the occupation inside Palestine. We believe that there are quarters seeking to distort Hamas' image and level the accusation of terrorism at it."

On the possibility that these operations were carried out by Islamic quarters sympathizing with Hamas, he said: "These operations do not serve our cause. I rule out the possibility that operations like these could have been carried out by unorganized individuals. There must be organized quarters with good intelligence capabilities in order to carry out a difficult operation against Israeli targets enjoying strong protection in London. Especially as a bombing incident had taken place in Buenos Aires (against a Jewish target), hence the Israeli leadership must have taken maximum protection measures, and the Israeli Embassy in London is not an easy target."

On the possibility that Hizballah may have carried the recent operations, he said that "it is in the interests of the Islamic movement for the conflict with Israel to remain inside Palestine. As for the Lebanese movements, it is better for them for their conflict to remain inside Lebanon." He also said that "Hamas does not accept responsibility for any operation for which it does not claim responsibility, regardless of who carried it out. Hamas members and the sons of the committed Islamic movement know Hamas' line and are committed to it."

Asked what quarter he suspects, he said: "That is not my job. However, I believe that Zionist quarters will seek to exploit these operations politically in order to gain sympathy and instigate the West against Hamas, now that Hamas has proved that it is the conscience of the Palestinian people, the Arabs, and Muslims."

On the possibility that Israeli intelligence could launch strikes against Hamas leaderships outside occupied Palestine and the possibility of Hamas' engaging in a secret

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war against Israel outside the occupied land, as happened between Israel and the PLO in the seventies and eighties, he said: "I do not believe that there is a plan to begin physical liquidations or a secret war. The Jews know Hamas' position full well, and it is not in their interests to move the conflict abroad."

As to what Hamas would do if strikes were launched against it abroad, he said: "That is a hypothetical question. We will talk about it then." He expressed his amazement at the British Foreign Office's pointing the finger of accusation at Hamas. He said: "It is unusual for the British Foreign Office to rush in and accuse Hamas merely because an unknown person contacted it or its embassies and claimed responsibility for the London operations. They know that Hamas is not a secret movement that has to resort to a such a method. All its positions and any claims of responsibility for operations carried out by the mujahidin inside the occupied land are announced through responsible and known quarters." He stressed that Hamas is currently seeking to contact the British Government to clarify its position. He pointed out that the contacts will be made in Amman and elsewhere.

Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the movement, had denied in a written statement of which AL-HAYAH has received a copy "that Hamas has any link with the operations carried out in Britain or elsewhere."

He stressed that "Hamas carries out its operations against the Zionist occupation inside occupied Palestine" and that the attempt to "fabricate" such accusations exposes an attempt by Israel to exploit these incidents to harm Hamas. He said that Hamas is continuing its policy, namely of keeping its operations inside occupied Palestine.

Shaykh Yasin Rejects Release Proposal

TA2907120694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 29 Jul 94 p A4

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the leader of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], yesterday informed his visitors in prison that he refuses to be released in exchange for information about the burial site of MIA Ilan Sa'adon. Shaykh Yasin said he would rather sit another 100 years in jail than be released that way.

Yasin's remarks came in the wake of a leaflet and a videocassette distributed two days ago in the Gaza Strip, in which Hamas voiced its willingness to hand back Sa'adon's body in exchange for the release of Shaykh Yasin, Mustafa al-Dirani, and Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd.

Yasin said that only Muhammad Nasir and Mahmud Mabhuh, who murdered Sa'adon, know where he is buried.

Palestinian sources said that the Hamas member seen in the video cassette, 'Abd-Rabbuh Abu-Khusa, was indirectly involved in the kidnapping of MIA's Sa'adon and Avi Sasportas. [passage omitted]

PLO Leader Says Israel Working for Peace

LD3007140094 Rabat MAP in English 1321 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Rabat, Jul 30 (MAP)—"The Rabin government is earnestly working for peace because it is for the interest of Israel to achieve peace and that the Palestinians retrieve their rights", said member of the PLO's Executive Committee Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas].

In an interview published Friday [29 July] by Moroccan daily AL-'ALAM, the Palestinian official said the establishment of a Palestinian state is in the interest of Israel and affirmed that the Palestinian state will be democratic based on multiparty system wherein all political, religious and economic freedoms are ensured.

On relations between the Palestinian national authority and the other Palestinian political formations hostile to the peace process, Abu-Mazin said "we want to build up a nation and we think that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] movement will [words indistinct] it will take actions to botch-up this [word indistinct].

Regarding the issue of the Jewish settlements, the Palestinian official said "we want the Jewish settlers to leave the colonies and we are against their presence in the Palestinian territories usurped by Israel in 1967".

EEC To Offer $5 Million in Assistance to Gaza

JN3107125294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Gaza Mayor 'Awni al-Shawwa has stated that agreement was reached with the EEC to offer $5 million in urgent assistance to implement several projects in Gaza city.

Al-Shawwa added that this agreement was reached at a meeting between an EEC delegation and the Gaza municipal council.

PNA To Establish Housing Bank in Territories

TA2907134594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Jul 94 p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Barghuthi]

[Text] Gaza—In its recent meeting, the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] decided to establish a housing bank in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Measures to implement this decision have already been taken.

The bank will be a joint-stock company between the public and private sectors and will play an important role in the housing sphere, something that requires immense effort. This decision will have a clear effect in

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promoting economic development in the Palestinian territories, especially those under PNA sovereignty.

Commander Appointed for Women's Police Force

TA2907121394 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Jul 94 p 3

[Text] The first Palestinian woman terrorist jailed by Israel after the Six-Day War has returned to Jericho to take charge of Palestinian policewomen, Palestinian officials said yesterday.

Fatimah Barnawi, appointed by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to establish and command the Palestinian women's police force, crossed into Jericho from Jordan on Tuesday [26 July], they said.

Barnawi was sentenced to two life terms in October 1967 for bombing a cinema in Jerusalem. She was released in a prisoner exchange in 1977 and had been living abroad since.

S. Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Council of Ministers Session Held in Dhaka

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Speaks

BK3007160094 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] The two-day long conference of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] foreign ministers has begun in Dhaka. Inaugurating the conference at the International Conference Center in the capital this morning, the current chairperson of SAARC Prime Minister Khaleda Ziaur Rahman said that SAARC member countries should forge a greater understanding with a view toward collectively eradicating hunger, disease, and illiteracy from South Asia. She said that age old superstitions are still impeding efforts to overcome mutual mistrust. The prime minister said that with a view to resolving common problems in this region, it is necessary to remove the isolation. Begum Zia said that the SAARC member countries have pledged to collectively resolve the problems, but until now have failed to achieve their common goal. She said the future challenge should be faced collectively. Describing the current conference as significant for all member countries, the prime minister said that it is an important step for bridging closer ties among member countries. The SAARC chairperson said that if it is possible to implement the spirit of SAARC, then it will be possible for South Asia to easily achieve prosperity in the next century. She said that a permanent infrastructure has been taken up for cooperation in the South Asian region and added that it will be moved forward to finding solutions to the problems. Referring to the dream of late President Ziaur Rahman to launch the SAARC forum which would be the symbol of peace and prosperity of the people of this region, the prime minister said today everybody has assembled here to take this dream forward. She said work should continue to establish regional peace and security. The prime minister said that the collective effort of all is needed to overcome unfavorable historical events, and added that everyone should dedicate himself to constructive activities. The SAARC chairperson expressed the hope that the SAARC foreign minister's conference will work as a new milestone in the march towards a common future.

Speaking on behalf of the delegates, the state minister for external affairs of India, R.L. Bhatia, said that everyone should make efforts to achieve a more meaningful regional cooperation and consolidate the successes achieved so far in this regard.

Earlier, at the beginning of the conference, the foreign minister of Bangladesh, A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, who is also president of the current foreign minister's conference, declared the meeting open.

Our correspondent reports that ministers from the seven member countries are taking part in this conference. They include the foreign minister of Pakistan, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali; the foreign minister of Maldives, Fathulla Jameel; the foreign minister of Sri Lanka, A.C. Shahul Hameed; the foreign minister of Bhutan, Lyonpo Dawa Tsering; the state minister for external affairs of India, R.L. Bhatia; and the minister for tourism and civil aviation of Nepal, Ram Hari Joshi.

India's Bhatia on Economic Growth

BK3107094294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] India has urged the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries to shake off mutual doubts and forge greater cooperation in core economic areas to help eliminate poverty. Addressing the closed-door plenary session of the SAARC ministerial meeting in Dhaka, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, called for speedy implementation of the South Asian Preferential Trading Agreement, SAPTA. He said this will help accelerate economic growth in the region. Mr. Bhatia also underlined the need for economic uplift of women and development of the girl child [as heard] with equal opportunity. The minister also disclosed that at the first business session New Delhi is considering a proposal to start a national trust for the welfare of mentally retarded persons and a scheme to provide a comprehensive package of rehabilitation services for them in the rural areas. He also said that the Ministry of Welfare proposes to set up a National Handicap Finance Development Corporation to cater to the financial needs of the handicapped population.

Earlier, inaugurating the two-day meeting, the Bangladesh prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, asked the seven member countries to look beyond bilateral problems and identify matters of common interest in building regional confidence.

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Pakistani Minister Comments

BK3107144194 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Pakistan has urged the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, to make full efforts to strengthen and expand the scope of fruitful cooperation among member countries. Addressing the 14th session of the SAARC ministerial council in Dhaka yesterday, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali said the SAARC has taken steps toward the socioeconomic development of the region. However, it has not fulfilled the expectations of the people in the member countries. He said there has been a rapid growth in regional cooperation in the world at large and hence South Asia should also not lag behind in this matter. He said Pakistan attaches great importance to SAARC as an effective and capable organization in promoting regional cooperation in South Asia. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali referred to Pakistan's efforts so far to realize the objectives of SAARC and said the organization should fully utilize its capabilities to promote fruitful regional cooperation. The foreign minister said Pakistan has gained strength from the decisions and recommendations of the SAARC finance ministers at their recent meeting in Dhaka to eradicate poverty from the region. He said Pakistan has launched a social action program to raise the standard of living of the poor man and despite resource constraints, the government has considerably enhanced the allocation in the budget for the social sector. Describing the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement as an important step, he expressed the hope that the next session of the SAARC intergovernmental group on trade to be held in Pakistan will help launch the preferential trading arrangement. Drawing the attention of the SAARC member countries to the distressing situation created by the production and smuggling of narcotics in South Asia, Asif Ahmad Ali stressed the need for better cooperation among the member countries of the region to control the menace. He made a suggestion for closer cooperation between the SAARC and the UN International Program on Narcotics Control in order to help efforts at the national and regional level to deal with this menace.

Meeting Ends

BK0108001694 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] The two-day SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] foreign ministers conference concluded in Dhaka today evening. The concluding session of the conference was held in the capital this evening, presided by the foreign minister of Bangladesh, A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman. It was attended by the foreign minister of Pakistan, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali; the foreign minister of Maldives, Fathulla Jameel; the foreign minister of Sri Lanka, A.C.S. Hameed; the foreign minister of Bhutan, Lyonpo Dawa Tsering; the minister for tourism and civil aviation of Nepal, Ram Hari Joshi; and the state minister for external affairs of India, R.L. Bhatia.

This morning, the foreign ministers continued their informal talks for the second day during a river cruise. The senior officials committee of the seven countries set up to write the report met this afternoon to finalize the draft. This report will be published tonight at the end of the conference.

The current chairman of the SAARC foreign ministers conference, A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman, is at present briefing newsmen about the different decisions made at the conference.

Results Viewed

BK0108084394 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] The next SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit will be held in India from the 15th to 17th of April next year, marking the completion of its first decade. This was announced by Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman at a news conference at the end of the two-day conference of the SAARC foreign ministers in Dhaka yesterday. He said the Indian proposal to hold the summit was unanimously accepted. The council will convey the consensus to the heads of government and heads of state of SAARC countries for their approval.

Mr. Mustafizur Rahman, who is also the chairman of the SAARC Council of Ministers, said the report of the first meeting of the finance and planning ministers of SAARC on poverty alleviation has been transmitted to the next SAARC summit. The report of the SAARC ministerial meeting on the disabled and the ministerial meeting on youths have also been transmitted to the next summit.

The foreign minister said one of the most important outcomes of the conference has been the agreement to carry SAPTA [South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement] forward. The timing of the next session of intergovernmental group of experts on trade liberalization has been set for September this year. At this meeting, negotiations on trade concessions under the SAPTA are expected to be completed.

Mr. Mustafizur Rahman said it was agreed during the two-day SAARC foreign ministers deliberations that the SAARC countries would seek to further coordinate their position in respect of major international conferences.

The foreign ministers held a number of formal and informal meetings in course of the session, which Mr. Mustafizur Rahman termed as very successful. Mr. Mustafizir Rahman said he is optimistic about a solution of the pressing Ganges water problem with India. Replying to a question, he said many problems were tried to solve. [sentence as heard] The foreign minister said he also discussed question of assets and liabilities as well as the repatriation of stranded Pakistanis with his Pakistani counterpart and said he is sure that some results will come out soon in future.

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Egypt

Mubarak Departs To Meet Israel's Rabin in Taba

NC3107100394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak left Cairo this morning for Taba, where he will meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. President Mubarak and Rabin will discuss developments in all tracks of the peace process.

Al-Baz on Talks

NC3107181094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Taba, 31 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has expressed his hope that in the coming weeks further progress will be made on the Syrian track. He noted that this track cannot be ignored because it is basic and fundamental in establishing peace in the region.

In statements to journalists in Taba today, he said tangible progress has been made on the Syrian-Israeli track since U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tours of the region and that the two sides have now defined their demands more clearly.

He said there is a feeling that both sides are now more realistic about the method to be used in implementing what is agreed upon and that they have a more accurate vision of the potential timetable for implementation.

Al-Baz explained that the progress made on the Syrian-Israeli track is not as significant as that achieved on the Palestinian and Jordanian fronts. However, he said that the Syrian front is very important to the peace process and that we should not ignore the Lebanese front.

Al-Baz Comments to Israeli Paper

TA0108104494 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 1 Aug 94 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of Egyptian President's Office for Political Affairs, by Smadar Peri—in Taba on 30 July]

[Text] [Al-Baz] I expect negotiations on Jerusalem to be much more difficult than negotiations on the withdrawal from the Golan. Jerusalem is a loaded and complex issue, not only for Israel. It is a difficult and sensitive issue. I believe it would be a grave mistake to conduct 'verbal negotiations' regarding the status of Jerusalem, as Rabin did in Washington when he gave King Husayn special priority.

[Peri] After he gave Husayn special priority in guarding the holy sites in Jerusalem, Prime Minister Rabin said: "As far as I am concerned, let the Arabs fight among themselves." What do you say?

[Al-Baz] I believe it is a grave mistake. The Washington Declaration indeed made the entire Arab world angry, but we are not bound by it. As far as I am concerned, the current situation in Jerusalem is the basis for negotiations on the permanent status. We ignore the "special priority" Rabin gave King Husayn. Rabin said "let them fight among themselves," but it will not be worth your while if we fought because of you. You had better not be portrayed as instigating tension in the Arab world.

[Peri] On the eve of his meeting with Rabin, President Mubarak visited Saudi Arabia. What did King Fahd have to say on the Jerusalem issue?

[Al-Baz] King Fahd has a special interest in access to, and in the protection and maintenance of the holy sites. Imagine a situation in which King Fahd wants to pray in the al-Aqsa Mosque. How will he get there? Under IDF [Israel Defense Forces] protection? Through Jordan? With the PLO escort? Through Egyptian mediation?

[Peri] Do you accept an assertion by Prof. Yehoshafat Harkabi that the Jerusalem problem might cause peace to collapse?

[Al-Baz] Definitely. The negotiations on Jerusalem will be much more difficult than the negotiations on the Golan Heights. It is a red line for you, and a loaded and sensitive issue for us. It will not be simple.

[Peri] Do you share the American view that al-Asad is making a certain positive shift, showing more openness and readiness to make progress?

[Al-Baz] The negotiations with Syria will take longer than we first thought. The truth is that we were mistaken. We were certain that Rabin would find it much easier to conduct negotiations with al-Asad than with Yasir 'Arafat.

[Peri] After the Mubarak-al-Asad discussion last week, what is you scenario for the future?

[Al-Baz] I believe that, in their next meeting, there will be a far deeper interaction between the Israeli and Syrian chief delegates. It will be different than before. Yet, I wish to clarify one thing that you seem to fail to understand. I believe you do not understand the Syrians, and do not know how to negotiate with them correctly.

The minute you insist on conducting secret negotiations with them, they turn suspicions and fear that you are trying to avoid official negotiations, cheat them, or weaken them. The Syrians fear that, in secret negotiations, you might try to force them into making an agreement on the Golan Heights in way you did to the PLO with the Gaza and Jericho agreement....

[Peri] Al-Asad refuses to draw his map of peace with us.

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[Al-Baz] I believe that an implementation in stages could succeed. Naturally, it must be accepted by both parties. Do not bask in the light of your agreements with Jordan and the PLO. I advise that you do not shelve Syria and think matters will work out on their own. Whoever believes you could be fine without Syria is wrong. It will not be to your benefit.

[A 400-word report on interview with Usamah al-Baz by Dan Avidan on page 3 of Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 1 August cites al-Baz as saying that "the negotiations between Israel and Syria are not frozen, and that certain progress was made after Christopher's last tour of the region." According to al-Baz, "following the visit, the stands of the sides were made clearer to each other," and that "a clearer understanding was attained regarding the timetable for the implementation of the Golan Heights arrangement, when it is achieved, and the ways to implement it. Such an understanding has not existed previously, but it is not enough to create a breakthrough." The report goes on to say that "al-Baz added that the Israeli-Lebanese track should not be disregarded, and Lebanon should not be treated as a mere Syrian satellite."]

Ministry To Brief Arabs on Mubarak-Rabin Talks

NC0108122694 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0945 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—Responsible sources at the Foreign Ministry have stated that Egypt will hold contacts with the Arab countries to brief them on the results of the talks President Husni Mubarak held with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Taba yesterday.

The sources said that contacts will also take place to prepare for U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region next week.

These sources added that Egypt is trying to give new momentum to the peace process and to overcome the obstacles standing before progress in the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks. It is also trying to establish just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Mubarak, Delegation Visit Saudi Arabia

Depart Cairo

NC3007104494 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1035 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Saudi Arabia today to meet with the custodian of the two holy mosques and consult with him on a number of important Arab issues, as well as regional and world issues of mutual interest.

Mubarak is accompanied on this visit, which will last for several hours, by an official delegation including Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Dr. Zakariya 'Azmi, head of the presidential office; and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Al-Sharif, Musa on Talks

NC3007163394 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1523 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Jeddah, 30 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him left Jeddah for Cairo this afternoon after a two-hour visit.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that President Mubarak and Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, discussed Arab and regional issues and recent developments of the Middle East peace process, including the signing of a Jordanian-Israeli agreement and progress on the Palestinian- Israeli negotiating track.

He said that President Mubarak briefed the custodian of the two holy mosques on his recent trip to Syria and his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Sharif added that the two leaders also discussed several bilateral issues and coordination between the two countries over them.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa reported that President Mubarak consulted with the custodian of the two holy mosques over the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina and ways of coordinating the two countries' efforts on this affair in light of the recent proposals made to the Bosnian Muslims and Serbs.

Musa added that the two Arab leaders gave the necessary instructions to their foreign ministers regarding the next ministerial meeting of the Islamic contact group in Geneva, which will convene next Thursday and Friday [4 and 5 August]. It will be attended by the foreign ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Turkey, Iran, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Egyptian ministers accompanying Mubarak on his visit met with their Saudi counterparts. 'Amr Musa met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif met with Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir to discuss ways of coordinating and developing media performance in the two countries in line with instructions from President Mubarak and King Fahd.

Mubarak Comments on Trip

NC3007182594 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1710 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has described Egyptian-Saudi relations as excellent.

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The president said that during their meeting today in Jeddah he exchanged viewpoints with the custodian of the two holy mosques on Middle Eastern issues. They discussed the peace process on the Syrian-Lebanese track and how progress can be made, in addition to the situation in Yemen.

The president added in statements to the chief editors who accompanied him on his return trip that he hopes an agreement will soon be reached regarding a fair declaration of principles that satisfies all sides.

In his statements, President Mubarak said he discussed with the custodian of the two holy mosques the obstacles before the peace process, including the issue of Jerusalem. He clarified that we believe things are moving in the direction of peace and that the subject of Jerusalem will be discussed during the negotiations.

He added that he also discussed with King Fahd the problems of the Palestinian cause, particularly the problem of development. He affirmed that the post-peace problems will be more difficult than establishing the peace itself because development requires a great deal of effort, particularly since in Palestine they have to start from scratch.

President Mubarak pointed out that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit the region on a new tour starting on 8 August. He affirmed that Egypt is ready to exert all efforts to overcome some obstacles between the parties concerned, if asked to do so, to push forward the process of a just, comprehensive, and permanent peace.

President Mubarak said in statements to the Egyptian newspapers' chief editors that he will meet tomorrow, Sunday, with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin within the framework of consultations to give momentum to the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

President Mubarak moved on to discuss internal issues. He affirmed that stabilizing a government is the best way to enable it to achieve things. He said that had it not been for the stability of Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's government, we would not have realized current achievements: rectifying the course of economic reform and bolstering development projects to serve the interests of the people.

He clarified that Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's policy is characterized by accuracy, honesty, self-confidence, and great expertise in the field of economics.

With regard to the UN International Conference on Population and Development, which will be held in Cairo in September, and the issues that will be discussed during that conference, the president said Egypt has long-standing values and principles that derive their origins from the divine doctrines. He said we will not accept anything that goes against these doctrines.

Returns Home

NC3007171094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak returned safely to the homeland this evening after a short visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during which he met with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Talks between the president and King Fahd addressed the developments in the Arab and international arenas and bilateral relations between Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Daily Says No Pressure Said Placed on Syria

NC0108091994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—[Passage omitted] In its editorial the newspaper AL-AHRAM praises President Husni Mubarak's extensive activity these days to bolster the peace process in the Middle East. It says that this activity has been characterized by short trips of one-day or a few hours to Syria and Saudi Arabia to find fair solutions for pushing the peace process forward. This is due to his belief in Egypt's effective role in dealing with the Arab nation's causes.

The paper says that Egypt is not exerting any kind of pressure on sisterly Syria, because it believes that Syria's stand is sound and that it is dedicated to finding a just and comprehensive solution in the region that will insure stability for all its people.

Concluding its comment, the newspaper expresses its belief that the coming days will soon show that some progress has been made in the peace process toward a just declaration of principles that satisfies all parties. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's upcoming tour will realize tangible results in this direction.

AL-AHRAM on Preparation of Jerusalem 'Formula'

NC3107072894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM emphasizes that the intense discussion on the question of Jerusalem in the past few days has given rise to calls for the need to speed up an understanding on the status of Jerusalem.

In its commentary today, the paper notes that in this regard Egypt has begun to work out a formula on Jerusalem. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has stressed that Jerusalem does not concern one state or authority alone and is not exclusive to Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians only, but is the subject of interest to all Arabs and Muslims.

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The paper notes that the recent wide-ranging argument over the question of Jerusalem, discussion of which has been postponed to a later stage because of the numerous complications involved in it, seems to indicate that the issue can no longer wait for long. The beginning of the implementation of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho has raised several questions over the status of Jerusalem, visits to it, and the Palestinians who live there. The Washington Declaration signed by Jordan and Israel has also brought all aspects of the problem to the limelight all at once, although different views on the matter exist.

'Contradictory' U.S., UN Stands Viewed

NC0108094394 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has expressed its surprise with regard to the contradictory U.S. and Security Council stands on the Haiti and Bosnia issues. The newspaper describes this stand as flagrant and exposed, to such an extent that there is nothing similar to it in contemporary international politics at any time or in any place.

The newspaper comments that this stand prompts neutral observers to question with surprise the reason for Washington's eagerness in its feverish campaign against the government of a small island that can barely be seen with the naked eye on the map of the world, so that the biggest, strongest, and richest country in the world has mobilized its forces and fleets to prepare for the invasion of Haiti if its military government does not permit the return of the exiled president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and the restoration of democracy there.

The paper goes on to say: We are not in favor of military regimes controlling governments in Third World countries or anywhere else. However, we only wish to draw attention to the big differences between the U.S. stance on a state under a national military government and its stance on Bosnia, where the people are living in a state of crisis and are exposed on a daily basis to flagrant aggression in violation of all international laws and humanitarian principles. In the meantime, the civilized world stands by, now at the end of the 20th century, satisfied with making empty threats that cannot be carried out, while it watches the world's biggest massacre. The paper adds: We would have liked to have seen the United States and its allies in Europe show some of the eagerness they express every day regarding the Haitian case—to the extent that they are ready to invade it—toward the criminals in Serbia who have killed, and are continuing to kill, a whole people without deterrent or punishment. [passage omitted]

PLO's 'Abbas Leaves for Tunisia Following Talks

NC2907162194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1407 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Member Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin) left Cairo this afternoon for Tunisia following a three-day visit to Egypt. During his stay, 'Abbas held talks with officials of the Foreign Ministry and the Arab League concerning the recent developments in the peace process.

Libyan Delegation Arrives at al-Sallum Border Post

NC2907140094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Marsa Matruh, 29 Jul (MENA)—The members of the preparatory committee for the Higher Libyan-Egyptian Committee under the chairmanship of Muhammad al-Hijazi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security—the justice minister—have arrived at al-Sallum border post.

The Higher Libyan-Egyptian Committee is expected to start its meetings under the chairmanship of the prime ministers of the two countries on Monday.

A responsible source has stated that among the topics the Higher Committee will discuss is the implementation of the railway line between al-Sallum and Tobruk.

Naming of Mayors Seen as Blow to Fundamentalists

NC2907142794 Paris AFP in English 1331 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, July 29 (AFP)—Egypt's village mayors will now be appointed by the government rather than elected under a new law aimed at weakening Muslim fundamentalists.

Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi gave final approval to the bill, which replaces a 50-year-old electoral system and affects 1,700 mayors and 17,000 deputy mayors, the Al-Ahram newspaper reported Friday.

Muslim fundamentalists have gained considerable influence in rural villages, particularly in the south.

Al-Alfi, wounded in an Islamic militant attempt on his life last year, presented the bill in March to parliament which approved it despite criticism from opposition and human rights groups who deemed it undemocratic.

Nominations for mayors and deputies will take place in October and a government committee will then choose from the candidates. Nominees must have "a balanced personality and security awareness," the semi-official paper said.

Current mayors and their deputies will keep their positions until they complete their five-year terms.

Muslim militants have waged a violent campaign aimed at ousting Egypt's secularist government since March 1992 and which has left nearly 400 people dead.

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Muslim Militants Claim Attack on Policemen

NC3107172494 Paris AFP in English 1406 GMT 31 July 94

[Text] Cairo, July 31 (AFP) The outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah (Islamic Group) Sunday claimed responsibility for an ambush in southern Egypt which left three policemen wounded.

In a statement received here the Muslim fundamentalist group said the attack on Thursday night was only "the beginning of a new stage of Jihad (holy war) in Mallawi," a town in al-Minya province some 300 kilometres (186 miles) south of Cairo.

The policemen—two captains and one private—were walking through al-Minya when gunmen opened fire on them and then fled the scene.

The statement said the miltants' escape "confirms the solidarity between the Egyptian people and Jihad."

The group also accused the authorities of murdering two Muslim fundamentalists—Ashraf Najwi and Rajab 'Abd-al-Hakim—probably a reference to two militants killed on July 23 in a shootout with security forces in the troubled southern region of Asyut.

Nearly 400 people have been killed since Muslim militants began waging a violent campaign to oust Egypt's secular government in March 1992.

Libya

FRY's Jovanovic Hails al-Qadhdhafi Initiative

LD2807143694 Tripoli JANA in English 1418 GMT 28 Jul 94

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser [July] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Vladislav Jovanovic, the Yugoslav foreign minister has applauded the initiative of the leader of the revolution to attempt to seek a solution to bring an end to the fighting underway in the former Yugoslavia as well as the Great Jamahiriyah's efforts in establishing security and peace in the region.

The foreign minister expressed this at a press conference held yesterday in Tripoli as part of the visit by President Zoran Lilic, the president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the Great Jamahiriyah. Attending the press conference were journalists and correspondents from the various Arab and other international news agencies.

The foreign minister said that President Zoran had held exceptional consultations with the leader of the revolution where they had discussed several international issues of common concern, the situation in Yugoslavia and co-operation betweeen their two friendly nations. He added that the discussions and meetings held by the delegation accompanying the president with the secretaries of the formational general peoples committees dealt with the the required steps to bolster co-operation and strengthen it in order to benefit both the Great Jamahiriyah and his country. He said that these meetings reaffirm and strengthen the historical friendship between the two countries.

On the subject of the unjust measures imposed on the Great Jamahiriyah and the blockade against Yugoslavia, the foreign minister said that they wouldn't be an obstacle to developing these relations but instead would serve to encourage them to counter these measures. He said that he was sure that these consultations would help to strengthen peace in the region where they lived and in the Mediterranean.

The Yugoslav foreign minister said that the Great Jamahiriyah was a friend, was striving to seek a peaceful solution in the former Yugoslavia and was striving to create co-operation which would encompass the entire region. He added that the Great Jamahiriyah and Yugoslavia were both striving to establish the principle of law instead of force and were working to achieve this in order to serve world peace.

The Yugoslav foreign minister ended the press conference by expressing his appreciation for the leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people for the warm reception and generous hospitality they encountered.

U.S. 'Rejection' of Lockerbie Solutions Criticized

MM0108093294 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 25-31 Jul 94 p5

[Interview with Ahmad Ibrahim, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Information and Culture, by Ashraf al-Faqiyy in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] Ahmad Ibrahim, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Information and Culture, has criticized the "American insistence on rejection of all solutions" for the Lockerbie crisis. In an interview with AL-WASAT, he urged President Bill Clinton to seek to rectify the course of "U.S.-Libyan relations," noting that "continuation of the economic sanctions against his country will not resolve the Lockerbie issue."

[Al-Faqiyy] Some circles link the sanctions against Libya to the overthrow of the Libyan regime. To what extent has that been achieved?

[Ibrahim] There is no traditional regime in Libyan to be overthrown with blockade or war. The people rule themselves through a jamahiri regime [rule of the masses]. It is doubtful that the jamahiri regime could be terminated, because that would mean annihilating the entire people.

[Al-Faqiyy] Do you expect an escalation of the sanctions in August?

[Ibrahim] Logically, I would expect the sanctions to be lifted because they are not justified. Furthermore, Libya

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has done everything it could to enable the international community to unravel the mystery of the Lockerbie case which still carries many surprises.

The rejection of the Arab League's proposal calling for the trial of the suspects at the International Court of Justice in the Hague by Scottish judges was unjustified.

[Al-Faqiyy] Do you see the confessions of Yusuf Sha-'ban, the Palestinian defendant currently on trial in Lebanon on the charge of assassinating the Jordanian diplomat Na'ib al-Ma'ayitah, as one of the surprises you mentioned?

[Ibrahim] The confessions of Yusuf Sha'ban about blowing up the American airliner were not the last piece of evidence. To begin with, Libya was accused without any evidence or legal grounds. The West does not wish to uncover the identity of whoever was responsible for blowing up the plane. Their aim is to maintain the blockade to get Libya's support for their policies in the region.... There is abundant evidence of Libya's innocence. That includes the German attorney general's declaration that the prosecution's evidence in the Lockerbie case does not warrant charging Libya and that any fair trial would acquit the suspects at the first session of the trial.

[Al-Faqiyy] What are Libya's scenarios for resolving that crisis?

[Ibrahim] Libya has announced its acceptance of and commitment to the Arab League's proposal. We have nothing more to offer. If the Western parties have any evidence of Libyan complicity, then they should produce that evidence. We have cooperated much with the British, the French, and the Americans but it is clear that they do not want a solution and they pick their victims the way a wolf picks as his prey the black sheep that lags behind the flock.

JANA on Link Between Britain, Terrorism

LD3007055294 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] The British paper THE GUARDIAN has carried statements by the British prime minister on what he called terrorism and in which he accused some countries by name, including the Great Jamahiriyah. JANA's local affairs editor commented on these statements:

When one thinks about terrorism, with its real meaning, one immediately sees Britain's name coming up because the history of that country is the history of terrorism itself. If the real meaning of terrorism is, contrary to Western propaganda, the use of force to dominate and colonize people, plunder their resources, and impose upon them policies of dependency, then this is exactly what Britain's policy has been throughout its history.

Many people, including the Arabs, were burned with the fire of this British policy and terrorism and are still suffering from its consequences. Every stone built in Britain is a testimony to its somber colonial history based on the theft of the resources of the people, their enslavement, and their exploitation in the service of its interests and monopolies. Consequently, it is also a testimony to the millions of people enslaved and killed via hunger, thirst, and suffering.

The British are the last people entitled to talk about humanity because they were the first to practice theft, terrorism, plundering, and arbitrariness to which the Arabs and the remaining nations of the world fell victim. Moreover, the Arabs will not forget the major crime that Britain perpetrated against them when it planted the hostile and racist Israeli entity in the heart of their great homeland to enable the Jews to usurp Palestine and expand at the expense of Arab land in the context of a plan in which Jews and Christians have joined forces to destroy Arabs and Muslims in general.

JANA Denounces VOA Commentary on Slavery

LD2907223594 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] The Western media, led by the Voice of America—which is financed and run by the Central Intelligence Agency—proceed with their programmed course based on presenting a distorted image of Arabs and Muslims to the world. They rely in this on disinformation and the distortion of facts. Thus, VOA today broadcast a commentary on slavery that reflects the viewpoint of the U.S. Government. As usual, this radio station resorted to slander and derisive lies by implicating some Arab states by name. This falls within the framework of an overall plan of disinformation aimed at presenting a distorted image of Arabs and Muslims to the international public with a view to preparing it to accept any aggressive or colonialist actions against them.

JANA's international affairs editor commented on this and said: Slavery and bondage in their true concepts are the basis of the structure of the capitalist system. We the masses know that this system is cruel, for it lives by sucking people's blood through its machinery of exploitation within its societies or through the policy of the colonial system based on the appropriation and spoliation of the wealth of the peoples.

The editor added: The capitalist system, with its repressive and oppressive nature, is a system opposed to human rights, for it denies from within the people's right to their effort, it exploits them, and it confiscates abroad the rights of the peoples to independence and freedom. Consequently, it is a system incompatible with justice and opposed to anyone taking an independent path to achieve development and progress.

Opposition Said Hit by Wave of Arrests

MM2907123994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jul 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Salvation Front: Al-Qadhdhafi's Services Arrest a Large Number of Citizens"]

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[Text] London—Ibrahim Sahd, official spokesman for the (opposition) National Front for the Salvation of Libya, has announced that the Front has received information from inside Libya "to the effect that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's regime is mounting a large-scale arrest campaign which has affected numbers of Libyan citizens, especially the youth."

He added: "These arrests have been made in a number of cities but have been concentrated in particular in Tripoli and Banghazi." He pointed out that "over 70 people have been arrested in Banghazi alone. The total number of arrests during this campaign is still not known exactly."

He said that these arrests "are being made at random, and al-Qadhdhafi's services are moving the detainees to camps and then to unknown areas." He pointed out that this campaign is "part of the al-Qadhdhafi regime's known policy represented in launching regular arrest campaigns on various pretexts." He said that the regime used the incident of the disappearance of weapons and ammunition from the Armed Forces' depots in the Ajdabiya area as a pretext to make these arrests. All indications are that the incident was fabricated by the regime's services in order to use it as a pretext for a series of security measures that the regime intends to take to confront the marked increase in popular discontent at conditions in Libya under al-Qadhdhafi's rule." He stressed that weapons "have gradually been moved to the central military zone."

Sudan

Al-Bashir BBC Interview on South, Egypt Cited

EA3007202894 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has stressed that Sudan is totally convinced that Western states have aims they want to achieve in Sudan, explaining that they regard the current war in the south as one of the possible means for achieving those aims.

In an interview with the BBC recently, his excellency expressed lack of confidence in the West's seriousness to resolve Sudan's southern problem peacefully.

In response to a question on relations with Egypt and Sudan's memorandum to the UN Security Council on the Hala'ib triangle, his excellency said that the Egyptian side did not adhere to the agreement and that Egypt's foreign minister continued to offer excuses for a whole year whenever a date for holding a meeting was fixed. He pointed out that this made it evident that Egypt was not serious in continuing with negotiations through the foreign ministers of the two countries. He said this had forced Sudan to submit a memorandum to the Security Council proving Sudan had a right to the Hala'ib triangle.

On the Egyptian media's accusations that Sudan was supporting terrorism, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said that Sudan had been hearing this accusation for the last four years and that Cairo had not a single piece of evidence to back this. Instead it had put numerous Islamists on trial in its courts during which Sudan's role in supporting the Islamists was not proven, thus refuting Egypt's accusations.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said Sudan had undeniable evidence from the routine Egyptian side [as heard] that the activities of the opposition, including the rebel movement, were reflected in the Egyptian media. Also, the movement has offices in Cairo and is supported by the Egyptian Government.

Government Delegation to Nairobi Talks Returns

EA3107154794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 July 94

[Excerpt] The government delegation to the peace talks, headed by Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, the speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, returned to the country this morning after participating in the third round of the talks, which began on 18 July in Nairobi.

In a statement to our reporter, Mr. Khalifah said the talks with the rebel movement had ended on a serious and responsible note.

On the rebel movement's proposal for self-determination, his excellency said the government stance on this issue was principled, firm and consistent with the OAU Charter and treaty. He pointed out that the right of self-determination had been applied in the country since 1 January 1956. [passage omitted]

Khalifah, U.S. Envoy Discuss Peace Talks

EA3007174294 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, leader of the government's delegation to the peace negotiations in Nairobi, has met Mrs. Melissa Wells, representative of the American president for Sudan's affairs. Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj, the official government spokesman, was also present.

The meeting discussed the course of the peace negotiations currently under way in Nairobi and appropriate ways of rendering them successful.

Mrs. Wells said in a press statement that the negotiations were proceeding reasonably so far, affirming that for her part, she was exerting all efforts to push them forward. Mrs. Wells expressed her hope that all the sides will abide by the declared cease-fire.

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Kuwait

Cabinet Wants Pressure Continued on Iraqi Regime

LD3107170794 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1610 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Kuwait City, 31 Jul (KUNA)—The state of Kuwait has expressed its appreciation and gratitude for the efforts made by the international community which put pressure on the Iraqi regime to force it to comply with the implementation of the international resolutions relevant to its aggression on Kuwait. This came in a statement issued by the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers today on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the disastrous invasion of Kuwait by the Iraqi regime which is to be marked on Tuesday, 2 August.

The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers also stressed the need for the international community to continue its pressures on the Iraqi regime to make it comply with the UN resolutions relevant to its aggression on Kuwait, particularly those concerning the Kuwaiti prisoners and detainees, and respect Kuwait's sovereignty and independence within its international borders in accordance with Resolution 833. The cabinet said that this represented the core of the commitments mentioned in Resolution 687.

Kuwait also expressed the hope to see the international community continue applying pressure on the Iraqi regime until it complies with those resolutions to enable the region to achieve its security and stability which that regime has not ceased to threaten and destroy.

Kuwait also expressed its gratitude and appreciation, on this anniversary, for the good and blessed efforts which helped it free itself from the claws of the tyrannical Iraqi occupation. It mentioned, in this respect, the crucial role played by the brethren and the friends and which resulted in the defeat of the aggression, the triumph of right and the entrenchment of the bases of international legitimacy.

Minister Dismisses Report on U.S. Military Base

LD3107134394 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Cairo 31 Jul—In a press statement published here today, Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sa'ud al-Sabah said that reports by some sources on the completion last June of a U.S. military base in Kuwait are groundless.

He said there is no base, but a limited number of U.S. military staff are present, and their equipment may not be used for any purpose other than the defense of Kuwait if it is exposed to any kind of danger.

In a statement to the Egyptian newspaper AL-WAFD, Shaykh Sa'ud said Kuwait is not the only country in the region which hosts U.S. troops.

He expressed belief that the Damascus Declaration could be a good basis for cooperation in defense as a fundamental basis for security and economic cooperation between sisterly Arab states. He went on to say: From previous experience we found out that the Arab League was not able to achieve this cooperation. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sa'ud said the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states believe strongly in their common destiny. He added: If there are marginal disagreements, they will not affect the GCC states' determination to face up to external dangers. Nevertheless, the minister expressed the hope that the GCC states can overcome these problems and marginal differences, especially as they are not substantial.

$12-Billion Privatization Plan Announced

NC3107131494 Paris AFP in English 1215 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Kuwait City, July 31 (AFP)—Kuwaiti Finance Minister Nasir al-Rawdhan on Sunday announced a 12-billion-dollar plan to privatise state-owned enterprises.

Al-Rawdhan, quoted by the English-language daily ARAB TIMES, said it would cover privatisation of enterprises in the water, electricity and communications sectors.

Some 800 million dinars (2.56 billion dollars) would be generated by the sale of companies belonging to the state-run Kuwait Investment Authority, which owns or part-owns 63 local enterprises, al-Rawdhan said.

Six of the companies were being privatised, the minister said, and the state's share in 13 other companies had already been sold off.

The privatisation would be spread over at least five years, economic experts said.

In April, the prime minister and crown prince, Shaykh Sa'ad al- 'Abdallah al-Sabah, appointed a new cabinet to revive the economy, which is still hit by the effects of the Iraqi occupation of August 1990 to February 1991.

Privatisation, taxes on public services and the opening up of the oil sector to foreign companies form the basis of Kuwait's. [sentence as received] But Oil Minister 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-'Mid'aj said Saturday that Kuwait had given up its plan to open the sector.

Kuwait's budget deficit has led the government to draw on its reserves abroad, which have diminished to 35 billion dollars compared with 100 billion before the Gulf crisis.

Oil price instability has aggravated the deficit, which is put this year at 5.4 billion dollars and expected to rise to around seven billion in 1995.

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The economic reforms are aimed at eliminating the deficit by the year 2000, al-Rawdhan said.

Saudi Arabia

Egypt's Mubarak Holds Talks With King Fahd

LD3007162894 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1510 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 30 Jul (SPA)—His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, arrived in Jeddah midday today for a visit to the Kingdom. The King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, was at the front of the those who greeted his excellency upon arrival at King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud international airport. [passage omitted]

A round of talks on the latest development in the Arab arena was held between the custodian of the two holy mosques and his excellency President Mubarak, and also points of view on topical issues—particularly those revolving around the peace process in the Middle East region—were exchanged.

Mubarak's visit to his brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques, within the framework of the continuous consultations between them for the sake of realizing whatever is good for the Arab and Muslims nations. [passage omitted]

Mubarak left Jeddah today following his brief visit. The custodian of the two holy mosques was in the forefront of those who saw him off. [passage omitted]

His excellency the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt was accompanied a delegation, which included Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. [passage omitted]

VOA Report on King's Remarks on Jerusalem Denied

LD3107161994 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1450 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Jeddah, 31 July—An official source made the following statement to the Saudi Press Agency today:

What the Voice of America reported today, quoting Israeli radio, claiming that King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, had expressed his indignation yesterday during a meeting with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak regarding Jordan getting jurisdiction over Islamic places in Jerusalem was totally fabricated and absolutely groundless.

Kuwaiti Prime Minister Arrives in Jeddah

LD3107164094 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, arrived in Jeddah this afternoon on a visit to the Kingdom.

He was met at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by his royal highness Prince Abdullah Bin-Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, and His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector-general. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sa'd is accompanied by a delegation that includes 'Abd-al- 'Aziz al-Dakhil al-Dakhil, the minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of planning; 'Abd-al-Latif 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Bahr, the secretary of the heir apparent's office; Khalid Sulayman al- Jarallah, acting undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry, and a number of officials.

Holds Talks With Prince Sultan

LD0108095494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0906 1 Aug 94

[Text] Jeddah, 1 Aug (KUNA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, received at his residency here today Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general. Shaykh Sa'd and Prince Sultan had friendly talks and examined the countries' relations as well as the situation in the Arab arena.

The meeting was attended by members of the delegation accompanying the heir apparent and Prince Sultan's accompanying delegation. Shaykh Sa'd and his high ranking delegation started a visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia yesterday. He was received last night by the King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques, in the presence of a number of Saudi leaders.

Yemen

Al-Iryani Tells Envoy Dialogue 'Yemeni Affair'

JN3107071894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] A responsible source has stated the following to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA':

The meeting held in Geneva on Thursday [28 July] was aimed to inform brother Lakhdar Brahimi of the Yemeni Government's views enshrined in the statement it issued on 19 Safar 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 27 July 1994, which reiterated its commitment to dialogue as a national constant on which there is a consensus. Dialogue among all national forces on future issues is a purely Yemeni affair.

Brother Dr. 'Abd-al- Karim al-Iryani relayed this viewpoint in the presence of Haydar al-'Attas at the request of brother Lakhdar Brahimi.

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Acting Prime Minister on 'Challenges,' Iraq Ties

JN3007125894 Baghdad INA in English 0815 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, July 30, INA—Yemeni acting prime minister disclosed that enemies of Yemen were plotting to divide Yemen into five small entities since August 1990 only because Yemen had supported Iraq in facing the 30-states aggression.

Interviewed by INA correspondent in Sanaa, Mr. al-'Attar said the enemies still fear the presence of a strong Arab country like Iraq in the north and a strong Arab country in the south like Yemen for such presence could jeopardize regimes linked and subordinate to the foreigner.

Mr. al-'Attar added that Yemen would not forget the national attitude of backing maintained by Iraq toward the unity of Yemen which is considered a triumph to the entire Arab unity.

The Yemeni acting prime minister described the Iraqi-Yemeni relations as strong and brotherly and having their solidity from the strong and brotherly relations in between President Saddam Husayn and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

On challenges facing Yemen at present and following the victory over the separatists, the Yemeni official said the reconstruction of what was damaged during the war is in the forefront of such challenges pointing out that the separatists had either looted funds or destroyed important documents before their defeat with the object of obstructing duties of the legitimate institutions and carrying out the reconstruction process.

Mr. al-'Attar, earlier on Friday, received the visiting Iraqi press and information delegation led by Information Under Secretary Naji al-Hadithi.

Mr. al-'Attar expressed Yemeni high appreciation and thanks to the national and distinguished attitude of the Iraqi mass media organs in backing the Yemeni unity until achieving victory.

The Yemeni official expressed the Yemeni people and government moral and brotherly support extended by Iraq for the preservation of the Yemeni Unity. [sentence as received].

Iraqi Vice President Concludes Visit, Departs

JN2907140594 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Iraqi Vice President brother Taha Yasin Ramadan and his delegation today left Sanaa following a cordial visit to our country. During the visit, he conveyed congratulations and greetings from the leadership and people of fraternal Iraq to Yemen's leadership and people on the triumph of unity and constitutional legitimacy under the banner of the Republic of Yemen. [passage omitted]

Fatah's Zaki Arrives To Convey Congratulations

Comments on Arrival

JN3107134094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki arrived in Sanaa today leading a delegation to our country. He will convey the congratulations and greetings of the Palestinian leadership and fraternal people to the leadership and people of the Republic of Yemen on the occasion of the great victory of our Yemeni people against the forces of rebellion and secession and the entrenchment of Yemeni unity, democracy, and political pluralism.

In a statement to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA', the Palestinian official said his visit to our country is within the framework of the distinguished relations of cooperation between the brotherly Yemeni and Palestinian peoples.

He said he will meet with political leaders and ranking government officials to exchange views on developments in the peace process in the Arab region. He will brief Yemeni leaders on the latest developments in the Palestinian arena.

He expressed confidence that the Yemeni leadership, led by Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, will work relentlessly to overcome the difficulties and problems caused by the sedition imposed on the Yemeni people. He emphasized that Yemen will again rise to shoulder its responsibilities and carry its historic message.

Brother 'Abbas Zaki was received by Deputy Foreign Minister brother 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Qadir, and a number of Palestinian embassy members.

Received by Foreign Minister

JN3107134494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Foreign Minister brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah today received brother 'Abbas Zaki, Fatah Central Committee member, who is visiting our country. They reviewed the strong relations between the two fraternal peoples and ways to enhance them.

In another development, the brother foreign minister has received the ambassadors of the European Union. They discussed Yemeni-European relations and ways to consolidate them.

Meets House Speaker

JN3107182994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] This evening, Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives,

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received brother Fatah Central Committee member 'Abbas Zaki and the accompanying delegation who came to our country to convey the congratulations and greetings of the Palestinian leadership and fraternal people to the leadership and people of the Republic of Yemen on the victory of legitimacy against the forces of apostasy and secession.

The speaker of the House of Representatives welcomed the delegation, noting that Yemeni unity, for whose sake blood was shed, will become, God willing, a factor of security and stability in the region.

The head of the Palestinian delegation said Yemeni unity is a candle lighting the Arab darkness, and expressed his congratulations on the splendid victory achieved for the Yemeni people and their free will.

The meeting was attended by the Palestinian charge d'affaires in our country.

European Flights to Sanaa Airport To Resume 1 Aug

LD3007195494 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1708 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Aden, 30 Jul—Muhammad al-Yusifi, chairman of the General Civil Aviation and Meteorology Authority in Yemen, has announced that Sanaa airport would receive on 1 August its first European flight since armed fighting between northern and southern troops began last May.

In a statement to KUNA, he added that the German airline company Lufthansa had decided to resume flights to Yemen beginning 1 August, as the first European company to make such a decision, and that its trips to Sanaa airport would be twice a week via Cairo international airport.

On Aden airport, al-Yusifi said that the airport had resumed its external activities today, with the first flight being a south Yemen airlines company Alyemda flight to Djibouti by a Dash plane, as well as flights to the capital Sanaa and other Yemeni governorates.

He pointed out that the airport had suffered severe damage estimated at millions of dollars and that it could not receive any jets at present.

Al-Yusifi stressed that a number of Gulf states, including the Sultanate of Oman, Bahrain, and Qatar, had promised to provide financial assistance to refurbish Aden international airport. [passage omitted]

Salih Demands Extradition of al-Bid, Others

JN3107184494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman, met today with brother leaders of Ta'izz Governorate and a number of public figures, women leaders, leaders of the General People's Congress branch, and leaders of mass and creative organizations in the governorate.

He discussed with them a number of issues related to the concerns and aspirations of the governorate's citizens, as well as developments on the national arena following the defeat of the rebellion and the sedition the rebel secessionists ignited in the homeland to fragment its unity. He discussed with them the new tasks everyone must shoulder at this important phase to rebuild what was destroyed, overcome the hurdles of the past, and proceed toward building a better future for the new Yemen under the canopy of unity, democracy, and the modern Yemeni state.

The Presidential Council chairman spoke at the meeting and reviewed a host of developments in the national arena and the dimensions of what the rebel secessionists hatched against the people and the homeland. [passage omitted]

In his speech, the brother president touched on the general amnesty law. He reaffirmed his appeal to the deceived brothers to return immediately to the homeland and benefit from that law. He said they have 15 days to benefit from the general amnesty law, and anyone who does not heed this call within this timeframe will be responsible for his own action and for all the actions he committed against the Constitution and law. He noted that our country is planning to demand the competent authorities abroad to extradite a number of fugitive criminals, including [Ali-Salim] al-Bid, Haydar [Abu-Bakr] al-'Attas, ['Abdallah] al-Jifri, and Haytham Qasim Tahir to stand trial inside the homeland as war criminals in view of the savage acts and crimes they committed against the Yemeni people. These people, the president said, were directly responsible for murdering many children, women, and elderly people, and innocent citizens in our country, as well as inflicting damage inside the homeland. These criminals will be cursed by history, he added.

He said the Yemeni people are inside the homeland and no one and no party has the right to claim to represent them from abroad.

He said: We welcome dialogue. It is one of the national constants in the democratic course, in which we believe. However, we welcome dialogue inside the homeland and among the political parities and organizations and national forces that seek the country's interest and which are concerned about its unity and democratic march and its progress and development. [passage omitted]

Al-'Attas Warns Armed Methods 'Not Forgotten'

MM0108094094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Khayrallah Khayrallah: "Before Meeting With al-Iryani, al-'Attas Warns of Southerners' Resorting to Weapons"]

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[Excerpts] Geneva—Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas has warned that southerners in Yemen may resort to "armed action" if the dialogue with Sanaa fails. In a statement to AL-HAYAH yesterday, hours before an expected meeting between him and Yemeni Planning and Development Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, called for by Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN secretary general's special envoy to Yemen, al-'Attas said: "The war Sanaa waged was aimed at obstructing the Pledge and Accord Document, for whose implementation the first steps were taken by the Council of Ministers in Ta'izz and Aden in April." He added: "When the military and tribal leadership realized that the Pledge Document was going to find its way to implementation, it waged this unjust war against our people in the south." [passage omitted]

Asked whether the reply to this war is another war, al-'Attas said: "Of course, our option is dialogue and peaceful negotiation in order to secure peaceful solutions to put Yemen on the road to stability and development. But if the dialogue is obstructed by Sanaa, we have not forgotten what (Yemeni Foreign Minister) Muhammad Salim Basindwah drew to our attention today, that is, resorting to the armed action method."

Basindwah urged all states not to allow any attacks to be launched against Yemen by elements that turned to them after the recent war.

Al-'Attas, prime minister of the "Democratic Republic of Yemen" [DRY] proclaimed on 21 May, said: "We thank brother Basindwah for drawing the attention of his brothers in the south to the need not to let their cause become futile in face of Sanaa's military attacks and to choose the method Sanaa understands. This is how we read brother Basindwah's statement."

Al-'Attas said in his statement: "We came to Geneva to initiate dialogue and negotiate on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 924 and 931 and the agreement reached in New York. We believe that this session will be a preliminary session devoted to addressing three issues: drawing up a mechanism for the dialogue, setting a schedule for the dialogue' topics and the negotiations, and organizing the dialogue's dates.

"In order for the dialogue and the negotiations to succeed, and in order for Yemen and the region to extricate themselves from the unknown which awaits them, we believe that there should be Arab participation alongside the United Nations in this dialogue, which is aimed at achieving national reconciliation in Yemen. In order to ensure the achievement of this reconciliation, one of the topics must be Yemen's relations in their regional context so as to bring about a charter for regional cooperation in the framework of Yemeni national reconciliation."

Asked on what basis he wants the dialogue conducted, he said: "We believe that the Pledge and Accord Document, which constituted a document for national accord, is the valid basis for dialogue."

When told that the Pledge and Accord Document was announced in the framework of the unified state, that is the Republic of Yemen, and when asked whether referring to the document again means the fate of the DRY will be discussed, he said: "The Pledge and Accord Document was announced in the Republic of Yemen framework, but its implementation will achieve the aims we are seeking, most importantly ending Sanaa's tribal and military domination of the republic's destinies."

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Tariq 'Aziz Speaks on Embargo, U.S., Kurds

NC0108053594 Athens KIRIAKATIKI ELEVTHEROTIPIA in Greek 31 Jul 94 pp 28, 29

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by correspondent Marianna Polikhroniadhou in Athens; date not given]

[Text] [Polikhroniadhou] You recently met UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to discuss lifting the embargo that has been imposed against your country. Would you describe the outcome of this meeting as positive?

['Aziz] My meeting with the UN secretary general was positive. However, a change in the UN stance does not depend solely upon Butrus-Ghali.

[Polikhroniadhou] Which conditions have not been implemented by Iraq that justify the UN decision to maintain the embargo?

['Aziz] None. There is no condition that we have not implemented. And this is not just the opinion of a representative of the Iraqi Government. This is the position of all official UN reports.

[Polikhroniadhou] Then who is responsible for the continuation of the embargo?

['Aziz] The United States.

[Polikhroniadhou] We saw you people celebrating when U.S. President Bill Clinton was elected. How would you describe the U.S. President's policy today?

['Aziz] As a faithful continuation of President George Bush's policy.

[Polikhroniadhou] Should I conclude that you have been disappointed?

['Aziz] I cannot answer your question either positively or negatively because we still hope that the United States will change its position.

[Polikhroniadhou] I still insist, if you have implemented all conditions—as you claim—then why is the embargo still in effect?

['Aziz] Because the United States wants to leave Iraq outside the oil market to enable Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to get more oil and pay their debts.

Dollar Gold Mine

[Polikhroniadhou] So are you essentially accusing Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United States of maintaining the economic embargo against Iraq to safeguard their oil interests?

['Aziz] Yes indeed. Because Saudi Arabia and the United States signed multi-billion dollar agreements and Saudi Arabia must sell more oil to pay for what has been agreed between them. Therefore, they support a continuation of the embargo to safeguard their interests against Iraq, against many European countries, and against other countries that used to receive oil from our country.

[Polikhroniadhou] When do you hope the embargo will be lifted? Do you have any optimistic messages?

['Aziz] It is significant that many states are now beginning to realize that we have implemented all conditions and therefore the embargo must be lifted. Other than this, many countries will benefit from the lifting of the embargo.

[Polikhroniadhou] Could you mention a few representative names?

['Aziz] France, Russia, Greece, Poland, Hungary, Brazil, Germany, ... [ellipsis as published]

[Polikhroniadhou] How are your relations with Germany?

['Aziz] They are improving.

[Polikhroniadhou] With Tehran?

['Aziz] Nothing has changed. The situation is still the same.

[Polikhroniadhou] Has there been any contact between your government and the governments of other countries that are being affected by UN embargoes? I am referring to Libya and Cuba.

['Aziz] Before the embargo, Iraq had good relations both with Libya and Cuba. Do not forget that Iraq tried to end the embargo against Cuba during the seventies and the eighties. Other than this, we were cooperating at a financial level because we assisted Cuba with oil and bought sugar from them. If there were no embargo against Iraq today, Cuba's financial situation would not have worsened so much.

Victims of Imperialism

['Aziz]Our relations with Libya were and continue to be just as good. We both know that we are victims of imperialism because we have adopted an independent stance. It is no accident that specific countries are attacked with embargoes. Iraq in particular, because it was the country that fought stJadily for the unity of the Arab world.

[Polikhroniadhou] Serbia is one of the countries that is being affected by the repercussions of an embargo. What is your opinion on the dissolution of Yugoslavia and the state of Skopje [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM], which resulted from this dissolution? As different from Iraq, which is trying to implement all of the international community's conditions, Skopje remains intransigent and does not agree to implement even the basic condition raised by Greece, that is, to stop using the term Macedonia in their name.

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['Aziz] From the outset we have been against the dissolution of Yugoslavia and maintained our embassy in Belgrade. We hope that a correct settlement of the Yugoslav issue will be found in the future.

Regarding Skopje, we realize your sensitivity about the name because it is connected with the history of a country and a people. For example, we do not believe that our country is a significant power only because it has reserves of "black gold." Primarily, we consider our country significant because of its history. This is why we would never tolerate anyone plotting against anything that has to do with it. The same must be true for all countries that have a rich history. Greece is a country that has played a very important role in the civilization of humanity and Macedonia is a name that belongs to your country. Everyone who knows history knows that. For this reason, Iraq would be the last country in the world that would recognize this state with the name Macedonia.

[Polikhroniadhou] While the new order of things is often indifferent and many times exploits the Muslim people who traditionally live in Arab countries, at the same time great interest is shown in the rights of a group of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and efforts are made to turn the Muslim world against the Serbs. There is also talk about a religious war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Do you share this view?

['Aziz] The war in the former Yugoslavia is not religious. No war is. Therefore, there is no issue of Muslims or Christians.

[Polikhroniadhou] We have read in the foreign press that you might cooperate with Turkey to empty the oil pipelines. Have you concluded your discussions?

['Aziz] There are talks between Iraq and Turkey to share old oil that is already in the pipelines and must be emptied. But, nothing is final yet. There are problems because the United States still raises some obstacles in the implementation of the decision. That is why the issue is still being discussed.

[Polikhroniadhou] Is the U.S. side putting pressure on Iraq to sign some agreements to lift the embargo?

['Aziz] No, there is no such pressure.

[Polikhroniadhou] A significant agreement would have been signed with the French oil company Total. Where are negotiations now?

['Aziz] There has been a preliminary agreement but nothing final yet. But I believe that we are moving down a good road and there are solid hopes that we will reach an agreement.

Fair Demand

[Polikhroniadhou] Let's discuss another issue, the Kurdish problem. What is going on with the Kurds who live in Iraq?

['Aziz] As a state we recognize that the Kurdish demand for autonomy is fair. We have set it in motion starting in 1970. We have made great strides and we are willing to continue to work until the issue is completely resolved. However, the problem is that the U.S. air violations in Iraq, especially in the Kurdish areas, prevent the Iraqi Government from contacting the Kurds to find a solution by using one or two persons from the Kurdish leadership who are actually Americans. [as published]

[Polikhroniadhou] According to international press reports during the Gulf war and after its conclusion, your president is a man of the United States because by staying in office, he safeguards U.S. interests in the region better. How would you comment on these reports?

['Aziz] (obviously upset) Please allow me not to comment on such malicious and low-level press reports.

[Polikhroniadhou] In conclusion, what is your opinion on recent developments in the Palestinian issue?

['Aziz] I am going to disappoint you because we would need a new interview to discuss this issue. It is an issue that cannot be exhausted in a few sentences.

Vice President Ramadan Returns From Sanaa

JN3007133294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1250 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to his brother Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, has returned to Baghdad following a three-day visit to Yemen.

In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said he met with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and conveyed to him President Saddam Husayn's greetings and congratulations on the victory achieved in the battle for unity against the secessionists. He also conveyed congratulations from the Iraqi leadership and people to the Yemeni leadership and people on this great Arab victory. [passage omitted]

Pakistani Delegation Departs After Visit

JN3007110294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1854 GMT 29 Jul 94

[All Pakistani names and titles as received]

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—A Pakistani delegation led by Sind Province Governor Mahmud Harun concluded its visit to Iraq when its aircraft took off from the al-Habbaniyah Airport this afternoon.

The delegation's aircraft, an airbus belonging to Pakistani International Airlines [PIA], landed at al-Habbaniyah Airport on 27 July on the first flight of its kind to Iraq since the 30-state aggression.

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The delegation was seen off by Transport and Communications Minister Dr. Ahmad Murtada, Awqaf and Religious Affairs Minister 'Abd-al-Mun'im Ahmad Salih, Interior Ministry Under Secretary 'Abd-al-Jawad Dhu-al-Nun, and the Pakistani ambassador in Baghdad.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, the Sind Province governor commended the enormous care and hospitality accorded to the Pakistani visitors, who totaled 340 passengers, on both the official and popular levels. He added that this visit reflects the Pakistani people's solidarity with the Iraqi people.

The delegation comprised Minister of Public Works Makhdum Amin Fahim, Sind Prime Minister 'Abdallah Shah, Pakistani Parliamentarian Dhu-al-Faqar 'Ali Mirza, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Zahid Sa'id, Salim 'Abbas Kilani, secretary general of the Ministry of Defense and chairman of the PIA Board of Directors, and several other officials.

Article Urges Russia To Support Ending Embargo

JN3007135694 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 23 Jul 94 p 1

[Article by Taha al-Basri: "The Next Step"]

[Text] The clear and courageous Russian position announced after the so-called review of Iraq's abidance by Security Council resolutions, based on reports submitted by UN Special Commission chairman Rolf Ekeus, was logical. Now that it is clear to the permanent and other members of the Security Council that the United States is blocking a resolution alleviating or lifting the blockade on Iraq for political reasons, it is only logical for these members, especially Russia, to develop stands on breaking the political blockade, not just in defense of right and justice, but in defense of the real interests of Russia and the other states.

Objectiveness calls for developing the Russian and other supportive stands to the point of categorical rejection of the continuation of the blockade, as an expression of the rejection of the political stand that serves the personal interests of the United States. It calls for clear disengagement from continued abidance by the embargo imposed on Iraq; first, because it lacks justification; and second, because Russia and the others must work for their own national interests and the interests of their peoples. It is inconceivable for Security Council members to continue submitting to the personal wishes of the United States, which means serving the interests of the United States to the detriment of their own national interests.

Therefore, we believe the states that have rectified their stands, after fully realizing Iraq's right to demand the removal of the blockade, are now convinced that the council must fulfill its obligations, as declared by the Russian permanent representative at the United Nations, Ambassador Vorontsov.

What is now required is another advanced step in the next review leading to lifting the blockade, in fulfillment of justice and international legitimacy, which must be applied under one standard, not two standards.

Finally, it remains to be said that the Iraqi people's steadfastness and legendary endurance are the real means for eroding and ending the blockade, as pointed out by leader Saddam Husayn on more than one occasion when addressing the righteous sons of his people.

BABIL on Next UN Sanctions Review Session

JN3107113994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—The newspaper BABIL, issued in Baghdad today, wonders whether or not the anti-Iraq sanctions will be mitigated or lifted at the next UN Security Council [UNSC] review session.

In an article published today, the paper says that the answer to this question will be decided by the positions of some permanent UNSC members, which no longer conceal their sympathy with Iraq. These members are now required to take proper, independent, and fair stands in the face of the attempts to impose U.S. custodianship on the UNSC just to promote U.S. political purposes.

BABIL indicates that whoever reads about U.S. views toward Iraq can detect confusion and chaos, because these views are conflicting. Worse still, these views run counter to the relevant international resolutions, and also to the convictions of other UNSC members. This must be understood by UNSC members, be they permanent or nonpermanent.

BABIL adds: The Americans might use their veto right at the next UNSC review session. In the same vein, the veto right might also be used by other permanent UNSC members to protest the perpetuation of the anti-Iraq embargo. At any rate, the UNSC permanent members can unilaterally lift the anti-Iraq sanctions.

The paper concludes by saying: The presently stepped-up anti-Iraq U.S. media campaign is linked to the settlement process currently under way between some Arab parties and the Zionist entity. This escalation does not reflect the strength of the United States, but rather its sense of isolation, which is also manifested in the U.S. positions toward other countries, such as the DPRK and Haiti. This U.S. engagement on several fronts will not be in the interest of the United States at present or in the future.

Saddam Meets With Industry Minister

JN3107145394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has met with Minister of Industry and Minerals Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, several advisers and

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specialists in the industrial and mineral fields, and several officials in charge of executing projects.

During the meeting, the president was briefed on the achievements of the industrial sector in Iraq. The president gave appropriate instructions on work in this sector.

Saddam Congratulated by Iran's Mas'ud Rajavi

JN3107194394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1913 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 31 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received congratulations from Mas'ud Rajavi, chairman of the National Council of the Iranian Resistance and commander in chief of the Iranian National Liberation Army, on the 26th anniversary of the 17-30 July revolution.

Rajavi, in his message of congratulations, wished the president good health and success in serving the Iraqi people, as well as prosperity for fraternal Iraq. [passage omitted]

Ramadan Opens International Medical Symposium

JN2807152194 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 21 Jul 94 p 4

[Article by 'Ali al-Na'a'as: "Emergency International Symposium on Breaking the Blockade Begins"]

[Text] An Emergency International Symposium on Breaking the Blockade organized by the Iraqi Doctors Union began its work yesterday in Iraq. The symposium opened with a speech by Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan. He began by conveying leader President Saddam Husayn's greetings and best wishes to the participants for the success of their endeavors and his hope that the symposium will help break the unfair blockade.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said convening the symposium at this particular time is of special importance. It will discuss the practical state of affairs of the suffering of an entire people—men, women, children, and old people—who are facing disease and death due to a lack of food and medicine as a result of the unjust blockade imposed by the United States and its allies. He pointed out that the aggressors directed their missiles to destroy civilian establishments, including schools, mosques, hospitals, and shelters built to serve human beings.

Dr. Nayif al-Hassuni, dean of doctors, referred to the effects of the blockade during the past four years, including widespread diseases among children, women, and mothers due to a shortage of medicine and food for the human body, the pollution of the environment, and the spread of epidemics.

In a lecture, Health Minister Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak cited statistics showing the effect of the blockade on the increasing death rate among infants and the increase in chronic diseases due to a shortage of medicine to treat these diseases, in addition to shortage in other medical essentials in our health centers, which has impaired their ability to treat patients.

Defense Minister Meets Ambassdors

JN3007145094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—Defense Minister Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid today met separately with Chinese Ambassador Sun Bigan, India's Ambassador Muhammad Aref Kamarin [name as transliterated], and Cuban Ambassador Luis Mas Reyes.

He discussed with them means to strengthen and develop relations between Iraq and these states.

Sudanese Industry Minister Affirms Support

JN3007105294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0938 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—Sudanese Industry and Trade Minister Taj-al-Sirr Mustafa and the delegation accompanying him have left Baghdad at the end of a week-long visit to Iraq.

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency, Taj-al-Sirr Mustafa reiterated the support of the Sudanese leadership and people for Iraq in its confrontation of colonialist-Zionist conspiracies; namely, the continuation of the aggression and the perpetuation of the unfair sanctions.

The Sudanese minister added that the sanctions reflect an unfair U.S. policy aimed to undermine Iraq's sovereignty, security, and independence. He noted that the perpetuation of the sanctions constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and human norms.

The Sudanese minister praised the development in Iraq under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn despite the continuation of the aggression and unfair sanctions.

Egyptian Opposition Leaders Support Iraq

JN3107165594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 Jul 94 p 3

[Article by Ahmad 'Abd-al-Sahib: "Popular Egyptian Committee for Solidarity With Iraqi People; Secretary General of Arab Popular Forces Conference Meets Egyptian Party and Trade Union Leaders and Figures"]

[Text] The Egyptian national movement embraces several political parties and figures and popular organizations. It has not missed any opportunity to express its solidarity with Iraq and leader Saddam Husayn and to renew its readiness to do the utmost to lift the unjust blockade imposed on our struggling country for four years.

During his meeting with Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid

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expressed his understanding of the Iraqi people's suffering. He commended the Iraqi diplomatic efforts that have led to a change in the stands of some states. He affirmed the league's efforts to lift the blockade on Iraq.

Labor Party

Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri praised Iraq's steadfastness against the unjust blockade, and its reconstruction efforts. He referred to the efforts of his party individually and through other parties and trade unions to rally Egyptian public opinion in favor of lifting the blockade on the Iraqi people. Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn expressed his great admiration of the reconstruction and development work he saw during his recent visit to Iraq. He said what he saw is a miracle.

The Nasirite Democratic Arab Party

Party Secretary General Diya' al-Din Dawud expressed his solidarity with Iraq, saying the blockade was a test in which Iraq proved its ability to confront and surmount hardships. Dawud said the aggression on Iraq was aimed essentially at depriving Arabs of Iraq's power so the Zionist entity could deal with the Arab countries one by one.

The Unionist Democratic National Grouping Party

Party Secretary General Dr. Rif'at al-Sa'id called for the adoption of an Arab stand against the blockade in defense of a fraternal people. He called for intensive political efforts in the Egyptian arena through popular committees of solidarity with Iraq in order to expedite the removal of the blockade.

The Liberals Party

Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad affirmed his support for efforts to remove the unjust blockade on Iraq and his party's interest in taking part in all solidarity activities held for this purpose. He said the newspaper AL-AHRAR, organ of the party, always reports Iraqi activities against the enemies of the Arab nation.

The Nasirites

Farid 'Abd-al-Karim said the entire Egyptian people are with Iraq and that the Mother of Battles has made the masses realize that the Arab nationalist movement is essential for their existence and future. 'Abd-al-Karim expressed his admiration for the Iraqi stand in support of Yemeni unity. 'Abd-al-Karim added that the Iraqi people have created miracles and the Arab nation has never been so close to Iraq as it is today.

The Neo-Wafd Party

Party leader Fu'ad Siraj al-Din said: We are ready to do anything. Our hearts are with you. It is time Egypt intervened to lift the blockade, especially since the motives went away a long time ago. Siraj al-Din added: The U.S. stand stems from political motives, despite the fact that Iraq has fulfilled all its legal obligations under UN Security Council Resolution 687.

Solidarity Meeting

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference, delivered a speech at an expanded solidarity meeting at party headquarters attended by representatives of many parties and trade union organizations. He dealt with the subject of the blockade and the Iraqi people's steadfastness. The meeting demanded the removal of the Arab blockade first.

The meeting screened a television clip on the effects of the blockade on the Iraqi people. A photo exhibition organized in conjunction with the meeting depicted the effects of the aggression and the blockade, as well as Iraqi creativeness in reconstruction and development.

The 13 organizations participating in this meeting formed a standing committee of solidarity with the besieged Iraqi people. They issued a statement calling upon the Security Council to lift the unjust blockade on Iraq. A campaign to donate medicine to the children of Iraq was also launched. The organizations at the meeting were: The Labor Party's Committee of Solidarity with the Iraqi people, the Committee in Defense of Arab Nation Culture, the Arab Organization for Human Rights, the Union of Progressive Youth group, the Labor Party's Women Secretariat, Progressive Women Union group, the Doctors Union, the Liberals Party's Women Secretariat, Committee of Solidarity at the Cairo University Teaching Staff Club, the Press Union's Freedom Committee, the Nasirite Party's Women Secretariat, and the Arab Lawyers Federation.

During his contacts, Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, member of the Iraqi Ba'th Party's Foreign Relations Bureau and secretary general of the Arab Popular Forces Conference, emphasized the strong domestic situation in Iraq and the people's unity and solidarity behind the leader Saddam Husayn, noting that his excellency has assumed the premiership out of his strong desire to alleviate the sufferings of the people. Hammudi referred to the struggle campaign witnessed by Iraq in order to reconstruct what the enemies have destroyed and to build more strategic projects.

Hammudi explained the effects of the unjust blockade and the death of hundreds of thousands of children and old people. He dealt with the latest developments of the blockade on the international level. He explained the technical, political, and legal aspects of Resolution 687 and the implementation of Article 22 and the position of the big powers and the non-permanent members in the Security Council.

During his meetings with the parties, figures, and unions, Hammudi called for escalating public awareness activities in order to maintain the momentum of support for the Iraq of the Mother of Battles and its warrior Saddam

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Husayn and to continue world pressure in order to remove this inhuman blockade.

Explosion Reported in Karkuk Power Plant

NC2907145494 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] An explosion occurred in a power plant in Karkuk, causing a power outage in a number of the city's suburbs. The Iraqi [words indistinct], which said that the blast occurred on 20 July [words indistinct] a series of explosions in the ruling Iraqi regime's centers and establishments.

Christians Accuse Kurds of Taking Land

NC3107082094 Paris AFP in English 2201 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Report by Tolle Aram]

[Text] Zakho, Iraq, July 31 (AFP)—Northern Iraqi Christians forced from their homes by government troops charge they have now been dispossessed a second time—by Kurds holding the region in defiance of Saddam Husayn.

"The problem is the Kurds are occupying our villages and preventing our people from returning to their lands," complained Peter Butrus, a priest in the town of Zakho.

The nearby village of Kani-Masi was entirely inhabited by Christians before its destruction by Iraqi troops in 1987.

Today, Kurdish families live among the ruins.

"What choice do we have? Our own village, right at the top of the mountain, is destroyed and there's nobody to help us rebuild," said Arsalan Ahmad, head of one of the 30 Kurdish families squatting in the ruins. "We will wait here until help arrives."

But a Christian who used to live in the village doubts they will ever move on. "I'm sure they'll stay because their land is not as good as ours," he said, asking not to be named.

Between 50,000 and 100,000 Christians—from a total of around one million throughout Iraq—live in Iraqi Kurdistan, which since 1991 has been held by the Kurds in defiance of Baghdad after an anti-government uprising.

The Kurdish official in charge of housing, Yonnakam Kanna, said around 100 villages had been taken over like Kani-Masi. He blamed the policy of destruction and confiscation carried out by the Iraqi army.

In Sersik village, 125 families from the clan of Kurdish leader Mas'ud Barzani have settled on communal lands which were expropriated from the Christians.

But Kanna, himself a Christian, says Baghdad had compensated the original owners at the time.

"Our Kurdish government is young and facing a lot of other problems. We hope this land dispute will be settled in the future," said Shmael Benyamin, deputy in the Kurdish parliament.

Sargon Slivo of the Assyrian Democratic Party representing the Christians pointed out that his community and the Kurds had long experience of living together.

"We experienced the same threat from the Iraqi government and fought together in the mountains," he said.

The Christians, almost all descendants of the Assyrians who built one of the world's first civilizations 6,000 years ago, have won new rights under the Kurdish administration that were denied them under Baghdad's rule.

They have a radio station broadcasting in their own language, Aramaic, which is also taught in schools. The Armenians, a small minority among the Christians, also have their own schools and churches.

"Since the Kurdish ministry for education couldn't afford to print schoolbooks in the Assyrian language, we had to print them ourselves," said Benyamin.

Kurds Injured in Iranian Shelling

NC3107181594 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] A responsible source has told KURDISTAN NWAY that the Iranian forces shelled the village of (Sanbul) in al-Sulaymaniyah governorate with their heavy artillery on the night of 29-30 July. The source added that 19 persons were injured in the shelling.

Al-Ta'mim Governorate Completes Grain Harvest

JN2807084294 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 21 Jul 94 p 12

[Text] The al-Ta'mim Governorate today concluded a 42-day campaign to harvest this season's wheat and barley. Some 20,000 peasants and farmers and members of 12 committees in the various districts and subdistricts redoubled their efforts to complete the harvest on time with the help of 555 harvesters.

Another 10 committees are currently engaged in facilitating the task of receiving and marketing wheat and barley in 16 marketing centers throughout the agricultural areas in the governorate.

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Rabin Interviewed on Peace, Politics, Peres

TA0108064894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Karmit Gay and Yo'el Nir on 1 August; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Gay] Good morning, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning to you and the listeners.

[Gay] Are we closer to an agreement, or to negotiating with Syria this morning than we were yesterday morning?

[Rabin] Anyone who believes we will some day reach comprehensive peace with the three countries—Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon—in addition to peace with Egypt and the Palestinians, will realize that we draw closer to our goal as time goes by. The whole truth, however, is that there are still considerable gaps in the stands of Syria and Israel that will definitely need time to resolve.

[Gay] Such as the depth of withdrawal versus the extent of their commitment to peace, for instance?

[Rabin] That too. There are four main components that have not been resolved as yet: the depth of withdrawal, the duration of withdrawal, the stages of the implementation of peace; since we insist—as we did with Egypt—that an extended phase of normalization, including open borders and embassies, precede our full withdrawal to the agreed lines; and the fourth element is the security arrangements, namely, arrangements necessitated by changes stemming from peace, that will protect Israel, as well as Svria against unexpected developments. Gaps remain in all four issues.

[Gay] Do you share the Egyptian president's assessment that an arrangement with Syria may be achieved by the end of the year?

[Rabin] I am no prophet. I think results, not talk are the test of government policies. I would like that to happen, but naturally, I cannot guarantee it.

[Nir] Mr. Prime Minister, reports from Cairo say President Mubarak believes that the Syrian stand on peace has become more flexible. Do you share this impression following your meeting with President Mubarak?

[Rabin] Look, the negotiations between us and the Syrians is mainly conducted through the United States, through contacts held by the United States with Syria on the one hand and Israel on the other. It transpired in the course of these proceedings that there is Syrian consent to several manifestations of the components of peace. However, their stands on timetables and substance are still far from being satisfactory to us.

[Nir] You mentioned several manifestations; could you detail them for us?

[Rabin] No, I cannot detail them, because they belong to the Syrian-U.S. dialogue rather than the Syrian-Israeli dialogue.

[Nir] Another assessment of President Mubarak's was that Syria will settle for no less than full withdrawal before engaging in the next stage of negotiations with us. At least a declaration on Israel's willingness to withdraw is required, but you have made no such a declaration as yet.

[Rabin] As I said, there are significant disagreements between Syria and us with regard to the depth of withdrawal.

[Nir] A proposal to arrange a meeting in Washington between you and the Syrian president was made last week. According to the proposal, he is to head a delegation of Arab state leaders. The Egyptian president was supposed to raise this proposal in his conversation with President al-Asad. Have you received an answer?

[Rabin] I know nothing of such a conversation between the Egyptian and Syrian presidents. I wish such a thing were possible. I do not believe the Syrian president is ready to meet with me as yet, not even on a bilateral level, and he certainly has not been authorized by other Arab countries—those that are not conducting negotiations with us—to carry out such a plan. Even if he is interested, I doubt that he will receive such authorization before the bilateral Syrian-Israeli problem is resolved.

[Gay] I would like to hear your reaction to the report we heard today that an almost wall-to-wall majority of about 100 Knesset members is emerging in support of the agreements with Jordan. The possible agreements and the possible compromise with Syria are far from having this kind of support. Will you respond to the Likud invitation to hold some kind of a dialogue with the opposition so as to secure broader national consensus for the negotiations with Syria?

[Rabin] I will be glad to. I think the broad Knesset support for the Washington Declaration is fully justified. I think the Washington Declaration was and is a great achievement, a culmination of the government and the state efforts to achieve peace with Jordan, our eastern neighbor, which has been a reasonable neighbor over the years, and while at war with Israel, has taken frequent action to maintain calm on Israel's longest border.

As for the Syrian issue, the Likud and Labor disagree on the price of peace. Therefore, I am always prepared to hold a dialogue with the chief opposition—and not only with the chief opposition, but I will do so without ceding our stands as presented before the last elections: readiness for territorial compromise in a bid to achieve peace on all fronts.

[Gay] I think some of your own party members, not only the opposition, are opposed to concessions in the Golan.

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[Rabin] True, and it is only natural for party members to have disparate views. As I have announced, if and when we face the option of signing a Syrian-Israeli peace agreement that entails material withdrawal, I fully intend to let the matter be decided in a referendum—namely, the nation will decide on what it is prepared to cede in a bid to attain peace. I do not believe this matter can be decided by the Knesset alone.

[Nir] Speaking of domestic issues, Likud faction chairman Moshe Qatzav said yesterday that the Likud will consider joining a unity government if you declare that no Palestinian state will be established. I understand no unity government is on the agenda.

[Rabin] I find the very expression of such readiness by the Likud faction chairman a positive thing. I do not think this issue will determine the fate of the argument on the peace moves with Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon and on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles, the Cairo agreement with the Palestinians. If you read the Labor party's election platform, you will find that it does not support the establishment of a Palestinian state. We must remember, however, that the permanent solution will be only discussed in about two years, or no later than that, after the agreement is tested in two stages: the Gaza-Jericho First, and then empowerment and possibly elections throughout the territories. These two stages will demonstrate the Palestinian system's capability to control every sphere handed over to them under the agreement.

[Gay] To conclude, we would like to ask you about another front—the Rabin-Peres front. Yesterday the foreign minister turned down an invitation to attend the Taba meeting, and he did not conceal how hurt he was by your attitude to him last week—and I am not referring only to Washington. How will you mollify him at your meeting with him this morning?

[Rabin] What matters to me is the business at hand. I see the Washington Declaration as a significant achievement; this is what preoccupies me, and not matters of protocol. Peres and I have been partners in the peace move since the establishment of the government, with him being the foreign minister and me the prime minister.

[Gay] Then there is no crisis as far as you are concerned?

[Rabin] I do not want to split hairs. Crisis or no crisis, we should remember that this matter has nothing to do with the business at hand. I think we have both—each in his sphere—acted to attain the Washington Declaration, to promote the agreement with Jordan, and if there are problems here and there, they have nothing to do with the heart of the matter, with our shared aspiration to promote peace.

[Nir] Mr. Rabin, you must be acquainted with the question many people have been asking: If that is the situation, why did you fail to give him due credit during the Washington visit?

[Rabin] Oh, leave me alone with these questions. Take yesterday, for example. Although it does not apply here because the relationship between Peres and me is different, President Mubarak's foreign minister waited outside for 75 minutes, the duration of our meeting yesterday. We do not work like that. State heads throughout the world are able to hold tete-a-tete with leaders, and I do not think anyone should be offended by that. Similarly, foreign ministers often meet with leaders of countries, both Arab and friendly countries, and the prime ministers should not be hurt by that either.

[Gay] Thank you very much, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] All the best.

Peres on Peace Talks, Terror Attacks

TA3007151094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Cyprus, by 'Adi Talmor—live]

[Text] [Talmor] The Jordanian information minister said in an interview with us that the PLO and the Palestinians must have sovereignty over East Jerusalem. That is not encouraging for those who set their hopes on the Jordanian option and want to give Jordan priority over control of the Islamic holy places. Is that not so?

[Peres] I believe we must differentiate between the final negotiations and the current situation. The Palestinians tried to give the impression that Israel intends to take away from Jordan the influence it has on the holy places. As you know, Jordan is responsible for the Waqf, it pays the salaries, it was responsible for restoring the dome on the Temple Mount mosque. It was therefore important to point out that Israel is not taking away from Jordan anything under its authority.

[Talmor] But it was reported that you opposed the wording of the Washington Declaration on Jerusalem claiming that giving Husayn high priority in Jerusalem is a violation of the status quo and the agreements with the PLO.

[Peres] I did not oppose it. There was an earlier draft in November which might have been slightly different. The problem is however not the wording, it is the contents. There are two issues in relation to Jordan: What it already has, it will continue to be responsible for. What it proposes is an interesting approach, but there are still no negotiations on the holy places, and it is too early to jump to conclusions.

[Talmor] But even you will agree that the Washington Declaration arouses deep concern among the Palestinians, who claim it violates the status quo in Jerusalem.

[Peres] I do not think that is necessarily so. To me, it is clear that we have no interest in creating conflicts between the Jordanians and Palestinians. In general, we

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want not only to avoid conflict between us and the Palestinians and the Arabs, but we also want a Middle East without any conflicts. As far as I know, we do not have any intention of creating an unnecessary conflict.

[Talmor] Has the agreement with Husayn produced any positive shift by Hafiz al-Asad?

[Peres] Not to the extent of making a breakthrough, but two or three interesting things have happened. First, the extent of his opposition to the agreement with Husayn was less than what might have been expected. He told President Clinton, who spoke with him on the telephone, that he will not voice any opposition to the agreement. I believe al-Asad had the possibility of being either first or last. Once he lost the option of being first, he is now interested in being last. In other words, to be the one to conclude the state of belligerency in the Middle East. Second, I saw in the newspapers yesterday—the Americans reported it to us, and I also heard it from the Egyptian foreign minister—that the Syrians are interested in continuing the peace negotiations.

[Talmor] But there has not been any real progress?

[Peres] The breakthrough has still not come.

[Talmor] Beyond the evaluations and assumptions, do you and the Israeli Government have unequivocal information about those responsible for the latest terrorist attacks against Jews and Israelis, and do you know whether those elements intend to continue to attack Jewish and Israeli targets around the world?

[Peres] I do not have detailed information, but all the paths and signs lead to Iran. Iran is the current source of evil in the Middle East. It funds the terrorist organizations, it also sometimes hands out arms, it encourages these actions, and we know that not a single word uttered by them can be believed. It has one of the lowest levels of credibility of any country in the world.

[Talmor] But is there also a possibility that we might be mistaken in our claims if we do not have unequivocal proof.

[Peres] We have clear-cut proof that Hizballah in Lebanon is in very close touch with Iran, but not only Hizballah, also Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and violent actions by others in the world, all lead to Tehran.

[Talmor] Except for defensive actions and efforts to recruit international cooperation, does Israel plan actions to curb the wave of terror?

[Peres] Israel does things all the time and it will continue to act. I do not think we should go into detail about what it will do, but it naturally cannot remain passive in the face of such a threat.

[Talmor] Was the possibility of negotiations, such as those which lead katyusha shelling on the north to cease, raised?

[Peres] Those were negotiations on a restricted issue, and I assume that from time to time, such an agreement can be reached. But as long as the Iranians think they can hide behind a screen of pretense and lies, it will be very hard to reach an agreement with them. How can we reach an agreement if they say they were not involved? You can only reach an agreement if you admit responsibility. Look at the Ron Arad affair. They deny anything to do with him. The difficulty is to make them admit their link. We know that at a certain stage he was transferred to them.

[Talmor] We therefore have a real problem.

[Peres] We definitely have a real problem, and it has to be dealt with a great deal of wisdom and even sophistication.

[Talmor] To conclude, Mr. Peres, do you plan to translate your humiliation from Rabin in Washington....

[Peres, interrupting] I was not humiliated and I do not deal with humiliations. I conducted a policy I feel good about. I always thought we should negotiate with Jordan before Syria. I am pleased that is what happened, it is much more logical. I did not suggest Syria should be first. I believed that in the long run we will reach an agreement with the king. I do not quibble over who should get the credit, and I do not hand out insults and I do not take them. I work for an aim. That is what will determine by approach in the future, as it has done up to now. Those who will have to judge, will do so.

[Talmor] I want to ask you if you plan to pressure Rabin to increase the involvement by you and your people in the political steps or whether you are even considering leaving the government, as was published over the past few days?

[Peres] I do not know what was published, I did not see the newspapers. The Foreign Ministry is responsible for foreign policy. It must insist on that and it will do so.

[Talmor] It was reported that you considered resigning from the cabinet.

[Peres] So, it was reported.

[Talmor] How do you explain Rabin's attitude to you? Perhaps you act in a way that influences him to act as he does.

[Peres] First, do not make me into a psychologist and do not appoint yourself a judge. Neither you nor I are in those professions because all the facts cannot be made public. I am firm in my view that I acted correctly. I do not know of any instance when I harmed anyone. There is no room for such talk.

[Talmor] We can assume, and many do, that prior to the next general elections, you will not give up the right to compete for the post of prime minister.

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[Peres] The next elections are still a long time off, and there will be a lot of waves in the sea before then.

King Husayn Calls Rabin; Proposes Meeting 'Soon'

TA2907173694 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] King Husayn telephoned Prime Minister Rabin's home tonight and suggested that they meet again soon. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the monarch called from his royal aircraft on route from Washington to London. Husayn said he was pleased that the Washington meeting succeeded in establishing good relations between them. He also sent greetings from Queen Nur.

[Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 29 July adds: "Political sources in Jerusalem" say that the next summit between the two leaders will be held in Jordan.]

Husayn's Contacts With Israeli Leaders Detailed

TA0108070994 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 15 Jul 94 pp 10, 11, 12

[Article by Moshe Zaq: "What Is Driving Him to Israel"; "a summary of a chapter in Moshe Zaq's thorough study, commissioned by the Begin-al-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University"]

[Text] Rabin: Even after the Rabat resolutions, Israel will not sit down with the PLO.

Husayn: I seek relations with Israel despite the resolutions of the Rabat summit meeting. Egypt supported recognition of the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians in order to block any path to talks with you other than negotiations with al-Sadat, because it is clear to me that you will not talk with the PLO.

(From the Collection of Dialogues, November 1975)

"Even if there is no agreement, we will be able to continue our good relations," Husayn told Golda Meir in March 1974, after Golda turned down the demand for an immediate Israeli withdrawal from the Jordan Rift Valley within the framework of a separation of forces agreement.

Those remarks by Husayn contain the essence of the king's uninterrupted dialogue with Israeli leaders, no matter which party they represented.

In three other instances, Husayn signaled to Israel that he wants the dialogue to continue despite the inability to reach a comprehensive arrangement.

—The message to the Rabin government.

"We are out of the picture. Go to the PLO and then see," the king told the Rabin-Alon-Peres triumvirate, when he met with them on 28 May 1975. He believed that had Israel agreed to withdraw from the Jordan Rift Valley, the Rabat summit would not have taken away from him the right to represent the Palestinians. But angry as he was, in November 1975 he called for a resumption of the dialogue in order to discuss practical arrangements, from border adjustments in the 'Arava to consultations on the election of West Bank mayors. Thanks to his keeping that track open, the monarch survived the resolution by the Arab leaders, who robbed him of his status in Judaea and Samaria.

—The message to the Begin government.

In Moshe Dayan's report to Begin on his meeting with Husayn in London on 22 August 1977, one point remained obscure. After the monarch had rejected all his proposals, he invited Dayan once again and reiterated the same arguments, without any innovations. Dayan wondered why he had been invited a second time, and although he failed to resolve the dilemma, it was understood that Husayn wanted to stress that he was interested in continuing the dialogue despite the failure to reach agreement.

—The message to the Shamir government.

Husayn's agreement to meet with Yitzhaq Shamir in July 1987, despite Shamir's refusal to approve the agreement reached with Foreign Minister Peres on an international conference, was unequivocal evidence that the Jordanian monarch was interested in continuing the dialogue.

What, then, is driving Husayn to talks with Israel? Why is he maintaining the communications link with Israel despite the Syrian, Palestinian, and pan-Arab constraints?

An Israeli Insurance Policy

Husayn's main dividend in the talks with Israel has not been in attaining outstanding political achievements. Even the "London agreement" of April 1987 far from assured a peace arrangement. His gain from these talks was to reinforce Israel's commitment to come to the aid of the kingdom if its independence was threatened or if there was a military threat to overthrow the king.

Husayn knows that even in September 1970, when Israel came to his rescue, there were Israelis who suggested letting 'Arafat take over Jordan, and thereby resolving the problem of the homeless Palestinians. On the other hand, he wants to encourage the trend expressed by Moshe Dayan in their meeting in July 1972. Dayan, who was defense minister at the time, suggested to the king, in Golda Meir's presence, that he sign a secret defense pact with Israel, under which Israel would commit itself to providing military aid to Jordan in return for a Jordanian commitment to stay clear of an anti-Israeli military partnership.

In a discussion with Golda Meir in March 1974, Husayn tried to reinforce that Israeli position: "Jordan has a vested interest in preventing the Syrians and Iraqis from

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taking over control of the Palestinians, something in which Israel should also be interested."

Husayn knew that his cooperation with Iraq, especially the aid he provided to Iraqi spy flights along the Israeli border in 1989, had angered Jerusalem. Nevertheless, he did not want to lose the insurance policy he had received from Israel. On the eve of Desert Storm, he met with Prime Minister Shamir and called on Israel to take into consideration his political constraints aimed at preventing his kingdom from becoming a confrontation arena between Iraq and Israel. Yitzhaq Shamir said after the meeting: The king had reason to believe that Israel would come to his rescue in an hour of need.

In the meantime, he also enjoys the warning bells rung by Israeli intelligence when his life is endangered.

Blocking the PLO

Until September 1993, Israel indirectly helped Jordan in curtailing the PLO's role as sole representative of the Palestinians. For pan-Arab reasons, Jordan could not publicly demand the right to solely represent the Palestinians. It was easier for Husayn to let Israel pull the chestnuts out of the fire. The Israeli opposition blocked the way for the PLO to the Geneva and Madrid conferences and forced the Palestinians to come under Jordan's aegis. In one of his meetings with Israeli ministers, Husayn presented a list of requests, including one to prefer Hashemite supporters in Judaea and Samaria to PLO supporters.

In the past, Husayn benefited from Israel's firm opposition to the PLO, since he feared that direct Israeli-Palestinian talks would remove his bargaining card with the Palestinians and weaken their linkage to Jordan. The PLO was forced to pay for his services as long as it was incapable of talking directly with Israel.

Husayn gave up exclusively representing the Palestinians, but despite the announcement about severing his ties with Judaea and Samaria, he viewed with concern the strengthening of the PLO as "the exclusive representative of the Palestinians," fearful that it may one day also demand the right to represent the Palestinians on the east Bank in the Jordanian kingdom.

Husayn expressed his satisfaction with Rabin's declaration (in a MA'ARIV interview on 29 September 1986) that "Israel's policy dovetails with Jordan's interest in cracking down on the PLO and strengthening Jordan's status in Judaea and Samaria." But he expressed displeasure with Israel's agreement to an Israeli- Palestinian meeting in Cairo (1989), which in fact removed Jordan from the picture. The proposal fell through anyway, but Husayn learned from it that the direct link with Israel should not be neglected in order to have Israel slow down the American race for a Palestinian option.

In September 1993, Husayn was surprised by Israel's signature on the Declaration of Principles with the PLO. The king did not hide his criticism of the Israeli move when he met Prime Minister Rabin in October 1993. Rabin tried to reassure him, with the promise that Israel would not refute the special relationship it had developed with the Jordanian Kingdom.

Israeli Aid in the United States

Following the Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation during Desert Storm, the United States stopped economic aid to Jordan. It was Israel that intervened with the U.S. Administration and recommended renewing the aid. Husayn thanked Prime Minister Shamir for that.

Husayn lashed out at Israel publicly and coordinated positions with 'Arafat on all matters relating to the political process. But even when he was making accusations, the Israeli-Jordanian dialogue continued, and Israel helped Husayn extricate himself from a political crisis in two ways: by assuring Jordan's status at the negotiating table at the Madrid conference and making the Palestinian delegation subordinate to Jordan, which also improved Jordan's standing in the American arena; and by recommending to Congress and the administration to grant Jordan economic aid, which was frozen because of the king's ties with Iraq.

It is not a new policy but one that has characterized all Israeli Governments since April 1963, when Ben-Gurion warned President Kennedy about the danger threatening Jordan and, in an official cable, called for "upholding Jordan's independence."

In September 1963, the king officially called on Israel to help him get increased U.S. aid, thereby launching the direct link with Husayn himself, who believed in Israel's power to influence events.

Twenty years later, Israel helped Husayn receive an American down payment on account of Jordan's five-year plan to develop Judaea and Samaria. Husayn understood that he would not have received even such a small amount—$18 million—without Israel. When he needed urgent U.S. economic and military aid in 1994, the U.S. Administration openly informed Husayn that its approval depended on a dramatic move, which would highlight a shift in Israeli-Jordanian relations. That was the background to the "aircraft for meetings" deal: Husayn's agreement to public meetings with Israel as a condition for receiving new U.S. aircraft.

Ten years ago, the administration tied the granting of arms to Jordan to a Jordanian declaration of nonbelligerency with Israel. Upon leaving a meeting with President Reagan, Husayn was supposed to declare that "the state of war between Israel and Jordan has ended," but he did not keep his promise, changed the wording, and said in a roundabout way that the atmosphere of war in the region had waned, as though it had nothing to do with him. The statement did not satisfy the Reagan administration, and Husayn's request for military aid was frozen.

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The Clinton administration did not settle for a declaration. It demanded and received Husayn's agreement to a real shift in policy in the form of a public meeting between Husayn and Rabin at the White House, which was preceded by meetings at the level of foreign ministers and ambassadors in the border region. The 'En 'Avrona meeting, which was inserted into the deal with Washington, made it easier for Husayn to agree to a public meeting in Washington.

Blocking Pro-Palestinian Dispositions

For years, the Jordanian Government followed pro-Palestinian dispositions in Israeli society. When Yig'al Alon appointed a Foreign Ministry director general who had published an article on the preference for the Palestinian option, the Jordanian prime minister quickly dispatched a question to the Israeli authorities: Does the appointment express a shift in policy?

On the other hand, the king once took time off for a talk with an American professor to study the political relevance in Israel of those who advocate "Jordan Is Palestine."

Husayn does not ignore the fact that despite the Israeli-PLO accord, Israel tries to uphold Jordan's interests in Judaea and Samaria, even if it arouses PLO anger. These include the opening of Jordanian bank branches, Jordan's status in the waqf in Jerusalem, and opposition to a Palestinian currency that would replace the Jordanian dinar.

Linkage With Jerusalem

Husayn noticed that in the Camp David negotiations, Begin rejected an American offer to fly a Saudi flag on Temple Mount. He appreciates the fact that the Israeli regime gives Jordanian exclusive control over the Muslim Council in Jerusalem.

The king is aware of the fact that Israel has been pressured to favor the Saudi king in the renovations of the Dome of the Rock. He was scared by the efforts made to deny him the crown of "guardian of holy sites." Therefore, despite his struggle against Israel over the issue of Jerusalem on the UN arena, he wants to make sure that Israel protects the little influence he still has left in Jerusalem. Husayn fears a Saudi flag. He knows that the PLO representative at UNESCO will demand that their organization take the place of the Jordanian representative in the discussions on Jerusalem.

Protecting the Border

In 1994, a senior Jordanian representative told his Israeli counterpart: "We protect your border." And indeed, Jordan does contribute to maintaining the peace along the long border, and for its own reasons: It wants to secure political and economic profits it gains from the dialogue with Israel. If the border is not kept quiet, Israel's reaction might be harsh, and might even jeopardize the accelerated development of the eastern Jordan Rift Valley. Furthermore, quiet on this border is the yardstick against which Israel measures the Jordanian Kingdom.

Husayn must be in constant contact with Israel's leaders to convince them that he is indeed making efforts to maintain quiet and stability on the border, despite the extreme statements he makes. This border has not always been quiet. Soon after the Six-Day War, when the Israel-Husayn talks began, the border sizzled with incidents, chases, and fire exchanges. The most outstanding incident was the al-Karamah affair on 20 March 1968. Given a warning by the U.S. intelligence that an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] attack is imminent, the Jordanian Army warned Fatah to desert their base ahead of time. Although Fatah attributed a victory to itself, the fact is that it was the Jordanian Army that clashed with the IDF unit which raided al-Karamah.

The fire exchanges in the Jordan Rift Valley and the Bet She'an Valley practically paralyzed the Ghor Canal. A ceasefire was needed to make it work again. The agreement struck there served as model for other local agreements, including the one in Elat and al- 'Aqabah, until it was anchored in a general agreement on cooperation on the prevention of infiltrations and a war on terror.

Economic and Transportation Arrangements

A briefing published by the Foreign Ministry on 15 March 1987 stressed that one of the principles of Israel's peace policy is "allowing Jordanian activity in territories held by Israel. This means supporting the moderate Palestinians in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza who favor a Jordanian-Palestinian solution as opposed to the pro-PLO extremists who preach for terror and a solution disconnected from Jordan."

How is this done on the executive levels, after the senior echelons agree on the principles of cooperation in their meetings?

—Arrangements for the distribution of the al-Yarmuk waters. For many years, there was a picture hanging on the wall of the prime minister's office showing the al-Yarmuk scenery. Only a close look at the picture could reveal a small white building. This is a folding bridge, the Vardi Bridge, which is being stretched out every other week toward the Jordanian side of the river near al-'Adasiyah, to allow Israeli representatives to cross over it for a meeting with the Jordanians in which the arrangements for the distribution of water are being discussed.

Jordan stayed dry by walking between the raindrops. On the one hand, it participated in Arab summit meetings in which decisions were made regarding the diversion of the Jordan and al-Yarmuk Rivers to prevent Israel from receiving water. On the other hand, Jordan accepted the U.S. recommendations regarding the determination of water quotas for it and for Israel.

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—Passage through Israel's airspace. Landing and takeoff of planes in the al-'Aqabah Airport would have been impossible if Israel had not agreed to the planes' crossing Israel's airspace. Jordan is also interested in a right to cross the Israeli airspace en route to Europe.

—Technical assistance. Israel has provided Jordan with technical assistance for agricultural development, clearly visible in the green strip east of the Jordan River where Jordan enjoys Israeli irrigation equipment and methods. Jordan also received assistance on the extraction of potassium from the Dead Sea. Crown Prince Hasan launched this channel of communications when he met former Agriculture Minister Hayim Gvati in 1973. The second practical meeting was scheduled for 7 October 1973. The meeting was canceled because the Yom Kippur War started, but Jordan's need for Israeli assistance was not. It was given assistance in meetings between representatives of both countries' potash factories.

—Open bridges over the Jordan River. Ever since Jordanian soldiers took part in the reconstruction of bridges destroyed in the Six-Day War, two-way traffic has been running uninterrupted, with officers on both sides coordinating practical arrangements. The bridges remained open even in times of war.

—Jordanian banks in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. On 18 August 1967, the Israeli authorities signed an agreement with representatives of Jordanian banks, giving them a license to reopen their branches in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The agreement was not approved by either Husayn or Dayan, but 18 years later, in 1985, Husayn placed a request to renew banking activity in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza on the list of 11 requests given to Shim'on Peres.

In January 1987 in Paris, an agreement was signed which allowed the opening of the Cairo-Amman Bank in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza under the joint supervision of the Bank of Israel and the Royal Bank of Jordan. The third agreement between the two countries was made after the Israel-PLO agreement was signed. Jordan has asked to speed up the spread of other Jordanian banks in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, with the hidden intention of coming ahead of Palestinian banks. When the Bank of Jordan opened its Ramallah branch, the bank director complained that Israel would not allow the bank to open a branch in East Jerusalem "because Jerusalem is an inseparable part of Israel."

Border Modifications

In 1970—when Israel and Jordan cooperated in repelling the Syrian invasion of Jordan—Husayn has managed to push the IDF back 75 square km in the southeastern part of the Dead Sea. At the same time, he has never managed to convince Israel to give him a small territory near Naharayim. Because the king wanted to receive another 381 square km in the 'Arava where Israel found water sources, he agreed to the official opening of the Israeli-Jordanian negotiations in 'En 'Avrona, where Jordan's territorial claims are being discussed, among other issues.

The Mediation Hope

Husayn is interested in maintaining an open channel to Israel, hoping that one day he canmediate between Israel and the Arab countries. He is not hiding his hope that the joint statement planned to be published after the White House meeting with Rabin will serve as a platform for negotiations between Israel and Syria and Lebanon. If this hope comes true, Husayn stands to gain a large political capital in the United States as well as in the Arab world.

In fact, Syria and Iraq both needed him to mediate with Israel. In 1967, when the Syrians wanted to deploy their troops in south Lebanon, the king relayed al-Asad's message to Israel. The message included a promise to maintain a sort of "red line" which the Syrian forces will not cross in their deployment. Former Lebanese President Camille Sham'un told Israel that when he had asked for Israel's military help, he was following Husayn's recommendation.

Iraq needed Jordan to contact Israel when it planned an oil pipeline to al-'Aqabah. Iraq sought an Israeli promise that it will not harm the pipeline, which runs very close to the Israeli border, just as it did not harm the trail of arms supplies from al-'Aqabah to Iraq.

Husayn hopes that, in addition to the immediate profits he is expected to receive from the Americans, he will succeed in drafting a joint statement with Israel in Washington which the Syrians could view as a basis for a comprehensive agreement. Al-Asad is also interested in American weapons.

Exchanges With Syria Believed at 'Advanced Stage'

TA3007185594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Excerpt] Israel and Jordan plan to implement some of the decisions of the Washington Declaration within days. There will be direct telephone links between the countries, and points will be designated along the border where foreign tourists will be able cross. At the same time, the Americans plan to speed up the negotiations between Israel and Syria, while Jordan claims that secret negotiations between Jerusalem and Damascus are already taking place. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik updates us:

All those involved are now trying to exploit the momentum created by ending the state of belligerency between Israel and Jordan. The main thing is to also reach a breakthrough with Syria and to transfer economic aid to the Palestinians before the autonomy starts

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to collapse. The Egyptian president explained to the Saudis today that this is the time to stop making things difficult, that the Palestinians have to be assisted with money, and the Syrians persuaded to join the process. Tomorrow evening in Tabah, Husni Mubarak and Yitzhaq Rabin will mainly discuss how to restore direct negotiations between Israel and Syria. We should not be surprised if Mubarak or his foreign minister leave for Damascus immediately after the summit. This is a warming up move prior to Secretary of State Christopher's visit to Damascus and Jerusalem next week. The Jordanians, by the way, believe that behind the scenes, the secret exchange of ideas between Jerusalem and Damascus is in an advanced stage. A Jordanian official told me he believes representatives of the Israeli Mosad are involved here as well. Israel, of course, denies this. [passage omitted]

Syrian Envoy Said To Shake Hands With Rabin

TA2907174894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] There has been an unusual development in Israeli-Syrian relations. The female charge d'affaires at the Syrian Embassy in Washington, (Su'ad Mu'azzam al-Ayyubi), participated in the White House ceremony in which the Washington Declaration between Israel and Jordan was signed and even shook hands with Israel's prime minister. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the Israelis did not know who she was. It appears that al-Ayyubi, the embassy political counselor, was representing Ambassador Walid al-Mu'allim, who was in Damascus on that day. Jerusalem says this represents another Syrian step designed to build trust in order to show the United States and Israel that Syria is sincere in its desire for peace.

The negotiations between Israel and Syria will be the focus of Sunday's summit between Prime Minister Rabin and Egyptian President Mubarak in Taba. The meeting will start at 1400 GMT and will last two hours. The two leaders arranged the meeting by telephone yesterday.

The U.S. secretary of state is due to renew his shuttle diplomacy between Damascus and Jerusalem in another 10 days.

Ambassador Rabinovich on Syrian 'Gestures,' Haiti

TA0108082094 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Professor Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador to the United States, by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan; place not given—live]

[Excerpts] [Friedman] Good morning, sir.

[Rabinovich] Good morning.

[Friedman] YEDI'OT AHARONOT has learned from members of President Mubarak's entourage that Syrian President al-Asad will agree to phased peace with Israel in return for—and here is a surprise—Israeli willingness to withdraw in stages lasting two years and culminating in full withdrawal from the Golan. Do you think this scenario is realistic?

[Rabinovich] The phase concept is not new. It was part of the Israeli package deal conveyed to the Syrians in the spring. In this sense, it is not a new proposal. We have an legitimate channel through which Israel and Syria exchange message, the United States. With all due respect, news received from Egyptian sources should be treated with some caution.

[Friedman] You said it is not new, but the concept has not been part of the Syrian package deal to date. If that is indeed al-Asad's position, would that be news?

[Rabinovich] If President al-Asad wishes to convey a new idea to us, he can use the U.S. mediation and visits. U.S. Secretary of State Christopher has recently visited the region. The secretary of state is likely to arrive here next week, and if President al-Asad wanted to convey some new negotiating idea through him, the secretary would be glad to set the date of his visit around that. As I said, I do not think President al-Asad will prefer the Egyptian channel to the U.S. one, because he strives to establish proper relations with the United States, in addition to those with Israel, and we have indications that the Syrians attach greater significance to the U.S. channel than to others.

[Dan] Is Israeli consent to such a formula guaranteed, including a publicly announced Israeli acknowledgment of Syrian sovereignty in the Golan?

[Rabinovich] No, Israel has made no such decision, and it has certainly not conveyed it to anyone else.

[Friedman] Yesterday Yitzhaq Rabin made a direct appeal to al- Asad urging him to make public gestures in a bid to convince the Israeli public of his sincere desire for peace. What kind of gestures can we expect?

[Rabinovich] In the past two weeks we witnessed gestures aimed mainly at the Syrian public opinion, including the almost one-hour- long live relay by the Syrian television of the Israeli-Jordanian signing ceremony on the White House lawn. This was a public diplomacy step, but it was primarily directed at the Syrian public. We would like to see, in parallel, steps directed at the Israeli public. There are steps that can benefit both sides. One way to appeal to the Israeli public would be using the Israeli media; I believe this is the desirable approach. [passage omitted]

[Dan] We understand that Israel will refuse the very generous offer to join the troops in Haiti.

[Rabinovich] I think the issue will be discussed in Israel tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. I do not think Israel has a clear stand on that.

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[Friedman] Is it possible that the Israeli stand against participation will change?

[Rabinovich] As far as I know, the cabinet will discuss the issue in the very near future. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] Thank you very much, Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich.

Knesset To Meet on Washington Declaration 3 Aug

TA3107153694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] The government will this week bring the Washington Declaration before the Knesset plenum. The Knesset will convene for a special session on Wednesday to debate the Israeli-Jordanian document. Prime Minister Rabin will make a statement on the talks with Jordan.

The session will be attended by President Weizman, and the Israelis who accompanied Rabin to Washington have also been invited to sit in.

Sending IDF Troops to Haiti Said 'Unrealistic'

TA0108080694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] The U.S. request to dispatch Israeli Army troops in the framework of a UN contingent to Haiti will be discussed today in Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin's office. The prevailing opinion is that the idea will not be executed. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

Today's meeting will be attended by Defense and Foreign Ministries representatives. The discussion will be held in the wake of a U.S. appeal made several weeks ago to consider dispatching an Israeli Army contingent, as part of a UN contingent, to Haiti after a democratic regime is established there.

Senior defense elements voiced astonishment and apprehension about the idea of an Israeli military contingent participating in action outside the country. The sources said that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops are busy with routine tasks and operational activities, and the idea of sending IDF troops to Haiti or any other country is unrealistic.

A defense element stressed last night: The IDF guards the State of Israel within its borders, and when it operates outside the state, it is to carry out humanitarian tasks, such as the field hospital in Rwanda and the assistance to Argentina. The IDF does not send its troops on any other kind of activity.

Although a discussion is slated to be held today, the prevailing opinion is that the Foreign Ministry will not even recommend to the defense establishment to dispatch IDF troops to Haiti. It will recommend sending a medical team, or some other humanitarian aid. The idea of IDF soldiers protecting peace in the world will be probably taken off the agenda.

Russia Denies Role in Iran-Terrorist Arms Link

TA2907121294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Yesterday, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher singled out Russia for blame in supplying Iran with the weaponry that found its way into the hands of terrorists. Russia's ambassador to the United Nations later met with Israel's UN representative and denied the claim. Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi:

[Begin Ya'aqobi recording] The ambassador of Russia is denying this role of Russia lately. He is saying that it happened a certain time ago and it stopped, and they are ready to take part in every effort to combat terrorism. If the role of Iran will become clear, they, of course, are ready to discuss any steps and measures against Iran or any other country which will be responsible for those activities. [passage omitted] [end recording]

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Al-Majali Returns; Views Summit, Jerusalem

JN3007183794 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1725 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali returned to Amman a short while ago after accompanying His Majesty King Husayn on his visit to the United States. He was welcomed by Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi, ministers, and a number of senior officials.

Regarding the Washington summit, al-Majali stated the following to our correspondent for political affairs:

[Begin recording] [Al-Majali] I would like to tell you that I am today one of the happiest people because I accompanied his majesty the king to the summit that was convened to emphasize Jordan's full rights regarding its basic demands. Jordan has struggled for these rights for many decades under his majesty the king.

At this summit, it was ascertained that these rights will be regained in full. We struggled for our territory, water, security, and stability and also for a better life for our citizens. Throughout these decades of lengthy struggle, we were trying to regain our rights. It is time to regain these rights, and it was crowned by this summit. Thus, we are among the happiest people for regaining these rights. The future will certainly be brighter than the present because we regained these rights. We will build in a better way than before.

[Jordan Television correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab] During his majesty the king's meeting with the accompanying media and press delegation, he said he would hold a popular referendum on the issue of peace.

[Al-Majali] In fact, his majesty the king may be of the opinion that everyone should join this matter if he deems it necessary to do so. Naturally, however, there are some people who thrive on instability. There are leaders, organizations, and institutions built on instability. Therefore, they are casting doubt on regaining this right. During the negotiations, we heard that these negotiations are hopeless and that we will return home empty-handed. These people only believe in instability because they thrive on instability. Now, there is stability, and King Husayn replied to these people by saying that the entire Jordanian people support the regaining of their rights.

[Dhiyab] Is there any comment on the clamor about Clause 3 of the Washington Declaration?

[Al-Majali] I find this clamor strange. First, we should know that since 1948, and even before this date, Jordan has been exercising the right to religious sovereignty over the holy places. This matter is well-known. Even after the Israelis controlled Jerusalem in 1967, this right has constantly been ours. Moreover, we saved all the schools in Jerusalem by turning them into an Islamic endowment, so they will remain linked to their Arab and Islamic identity. Likewise, at the time of disengaging [the legal and administrative ties with the West Bank], there was convergence on continuing this thing.

The Washington summit emphasized this matter. However, this matter does not conflict at all with the Palestinian people's struggle. We will stand alongside this people with all our capabilities to regain their rights to Jerusalem. This is inevitable. However, people's interpretation is undesirable and unnecessary. It is only a balloon launched by those who do not believe in stability. [end recording]

Officials Note Main Gains of King's U.S. Talks

JN3007095694 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Jul 94 pp 1, 7

[Report by George Hawatimah in Washington]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn wound up his historic week-long visit to Washington Friday [29 July], saying his was confident of the Jordanian people's support for his peace initiative with Israel and assured of the success of his mission here.

Speaking to Jordanian journalists before he left for a private visit to London, the King said the overwhelming majority of Jordanians supported his quest for peace.

"We are worried by what (the opponents of a settlement) say because we know what they want," the King told the newspaper editors and other reporters who accompanied his delegation in Washington. "When the picture gets clearer and culminates in a peace treaty, we shall present it to the representatives of our people to have their word on it."

"After that, I am also thinking seriously of going to all the Jordanian people and holding a plebiscite on the issue," the King declared.

Senior Jordanian officials explained that the Jordanian Constitution has no articles allowing for a plebiscite or national referendum on issues, but Parliament could act to hold one if the need arises.

The officials said, however, that they were confident that Parliament would endorse a peace treaty with Israel under the right conditions and it might not be necessary after all to hold a plebiscite.

Jordanian observers and analysts estimate that the government, once it has reached a treaty with Israel, could count on the support of about 57 members in the 80-seat Lower House as well as the vast majority of the 40-member Upper House.

The King strongly criticised rejectionist politicians, from both the far left and the extreme rights (Islamists), "who claimed for themselves the right to represent and speak on behalf of the Jordanian people" and who oppose peace in the name of religion.

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"If we fear God we should keep our faith away from politics," he said, accusing the rejectionists of not being able to leave behind the mentality of the past and not understanding the politics and exigencies of today's world.

"We are on the threshold of a new era," the King said. "The peace that we are about to make is for the benefit of every citizen.. not for me personally."

In his luncheon meeting with the press, the King did not talk about the advantages that Jordan has won as a result of his historic meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. President Bill Clinton. He would only say that the meetings helped tear down "walls that prevented us in the past from seeing the human face of the other side (Israel)."

But the King's aides were more forthcoming on what had been achieved here in Washington.

"All doors that were closed have been opened before Jordan," the prime minister, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, said.

Officials cite as landmark achievements for Jordan:

—The restoration of U.S.-Jordanian relations, which had suffered considerable damage as a result of the Gulf crisis and war, including tremendous improvement in ties with Congress.

"Our relations with the U.S. now are probably much stronger that they were before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait," Jordan's Ambassador to the U.N. 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah said. "This is important not only because the U.S. is the only remaining superpower in the world, but also for its implications on our ties with the rest of the world."

—Jordan's political role in the region and its indispensability to any emerging new order in the Middle East have been ascertained. "We would have been marginalised had we not chosen to pursue this path," Mr. Abu-'Awdah said.

"We should expect countries even like Saudi Arabia to lift its boycott against us," said another senior official. Asked if he had requested President Clinton to use his influence with Riyadh to lift that boycott, the King said he did not raise the subject. But one of the King's aids told the JORDAN TIMES that such a request was unnecessary since Saudi Arabia would soon have to understand that there is no escape from patching relations with Jordan.

Likewise, the officials were confident that ties with Syria have not suffered as a result of the Washington meetings.

The King announced here that contacts with Syria would be resumed soon and that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak had told him Cairo was surprised by reports that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad would oppose the Washington Declaration.

As far as the PLO is concerned, "We have to get rid of the complex that Jordan is seeking to replace (the organisation) as the representative of the Palestinian people," the King said. "The PLO remains the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people," he said.

—The economic and military benefits that Jordan has reaped as a result of last week's meetings cannot be underestimated, according to Jordanian officials. "Only yesterday, Britain announced that it is scrapping Pounds 60 million (about $90m) of Jordan's debts (which amount to $545 million)," Jordanian Ambassador to the U.S. Fayiz al-Tarawinah said. "This is over and above the $700m in debts of the U.S. that will be scrapped over the next two years and the American military assistance to the armed forces that we are expecting," Dr. al-Tarawinah added.

"It is hopefully a roller-coaster from here, and we should expect more economic and financial assistance over the coming period."

Jordanian and U.S. officials are still discussing two more assistance programmes from the U.S., namely, a currency stabilisation fund for the Jordanian dinar and annual grants to the Jordanian budget. But no concrete results have been achieved yet on either one, due to complex technicalities involved and also to the fact that congressional elections are coming up in November and it is usually difficult for the U.S. Congress to expand foreign aid in such years.

—Add to the above Israel's recongition of Jordanian borders, territorial and water rights, and Jordan's historical relationship with Jerusalem, as well as the dividends of peace, in terms of economic development and stability, "and you will realise that what His Majesty accomplished here is something that all Jordanians will be proud of," said a senior official.

True that there has been sensitivity with the Palestinians over the inclusion of Jerusalem in an article in the Washington Declaration, said the official. "But His Majesty has made it clear that the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem should belong to the whole Muslim Nation and not to Israel."

The King, in his meeting with the journalists Thursday, said religious and political sovereignty over the holy city were two separate issues. He reiterated that the Israelis and the Palestinians would resolve the future status of Jerusalem in the final status talks in line with the Oslo accord.

"On the political level there is an Israeli-PLO agreement on Jerusalem that we are not part of," he said. "But as regards to Islamic holy shrines there, we believe the Islamic Nation should have (religious) jurisdiction over them."

The King went on to explain Jordan's historical ties with the Holy City, since the days the Arab Army under the command of King 'Abdallah saved them from inevitable

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occupation by Israel to the 1967 war when Jordanian army officers and soldiers were asked to give up defending the city by the mayor of Jerusalem and other Arabs.

Now, the King asked, can't they (who are criticising Jordan) "acknowledge Jordan's important role in all this."

Al-Tarawinah Views Next Jordanian-Israeli Talks

JN3107080894 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 31 Jul 94 p 25

[Report by Caroline Faraj]

[Excerpt] Political negotiations' circles agree that the next round of bilateral Jordanian-Israeli negotiations that will be held in the region on 8-18 August will constitute a qualitative shift in the negotiations, and will add a new depth, the road for which was paved by the Washington Declaration, which opened new horizons for these negotiations.

In a telephone contact with AL-RA'Y, Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, the Jordanian ambassador in Washington and head of the Jordanian delegation to peace negotiations, said we stand now before a very important turning point in the negotiations following the summit meeting and the Washington Declaration.

Dr. al-Tarawinah added: The next round of negotiations, which will include the working groups on borders and territories, security, and water, environment, and energy, will discuss several substantial issues, especially after the Jordanian border and water rights have been entrenched at the highest political levels and after it has become clear that there is no room for any personal opinion on these issues.

He said: What is left for the Jordanian and Israeli negotiators and technical experts is to negotiate on drawing maps, border demarcation, water and agriculture, environment, and energy. These are difficult technical issues that require much time and extensive efforts. [passage omitted]

U.S. Expected To Write Off $696 Million

JN3007111294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpt] Amman—The United States government is expected to write off $696 million in Jordan's debts in a three-year period, starting with $190 million this year, Finance Minister Sami Qammuh said Friday.

Mr. Qammuh said, however, that his information was based on "unofficial" figures and that he was waiting for "formal communication" from Washington.

The minister said the total Jordanian debt to the U.S. was around $950 million, but the amount taken into consideration and which falls under the category eligible for debt relief under American parameters was $696 million.

"The rest of the amount represents loans guaranteed by the government of Jordan to American suppliers" of goods and services," Mr. Qammuh told the JORDAN TIMES, adding that Jordan's definition of government debts differed from Washington's.

Mr. Qammuh said that information available to him indicated that $190 million would be written off this year, $252 million next year and the rest in 1996.

Diplomatic sources said an announcement was expected soon in Washington detailing the amount of write-off for Jordan and related details.

U.S. President Bill Clinton made a public commitment in October 1993 that Washington would be seeking means to alleviate the Kingdom's foreign debt burden, which stood at $6.6 billion at the end of 1993.

Since then Washington, whose direct financial assistance to Jordan has dwindled since 1990, played a behind-the-scene role in trying to secure debt relief for Amman from the Kingdom's other international creditors.

However, Jordan has not received any significant amount of debt relief except that it succeeded in securing a rescheduling agreement covering $1.215 billion due to members of the Paris Club of creditor governments and another $130 million to non-Paris Club governments last month.

The U.S. component in the $1.215 billion agreed to be rescheduled by the Paris Club is around $400 million. It was not immediately known how much of that amount was eligible for write-off under the American parameters.

The World Bank has said that Jordan needs to cut its foreign debts by a minimum of 50 per cent before the Kingdom could hope to regain an international level of accepted creditworthiness. That would mean around $3.5 billion. [passage omitted]

Britain Writes Off JD60 Million

JN3007101994 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpt] Amman—The British government is writing off around JD60 million of Jordan's debts by converting loans to grants, following American promises to help the Kingdom's stability following the historic breakthrough made in the Jordanian-Israeli peace negotiations.

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John Major, the British prime Minister, made the announcement to the Conservative Middle East Council late Thursday [28 July] and said the move was part of his government's continued efforts to support Middle East peace-making.

Mr. Major paid tribute to the Washington Declaration signed by His Majesty King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in the U.S. capital on Monday.

"We wish to support Jordan in every way we can along the path chartered by King Husayn," Mr. Major said in the speech, a copy of which was made available to the JORDAN TIMES by the Jordan Information Bureau in London.

"I am proud to count myself among the many personal friends in Britain of King Husayn," the prime minister said. "He has shown indomitable courage over the years, and has led Jordan towards democracy as well as peace."

"I know from my own discussions with the King that the burden of accumulated debt has weighed heavily on Jordan," Mr. Major said. "If we can alleviate this burden, I believe that we can help Jordan's economic growth and democratisation and underpin the new relationship with Israel."

"I am therefore delighted to announce tonight that Britain will be converting outstanding balances of loans to Jordan by the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) to grant," he said. "This will be worth approximately Pounds 60 million and is a powerful signal of our support."

According to figures released by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), the Kingdom's government-to-government debts to Britain stood at JD52.1 million at the end of 1993, or about Pounds 54 million at present exchange rates.

Prior to Mr. Major's announcement that the debts were being converted to grant, JD18 million of the Kingdom's debts were already being rescheduled: JD31.6 million in principal and JD2.5 million in interest remained unrescheduled.

Jordan also owes JD333.3 million to Britain in export credit guarantees, which are not fully considered eligible for write-off. Of this amount JD161.6 million have been rescheduled, and JD130.6 million in principal and JD41.1 million remain unscheduled, but part of the principal and interest was converted in an agreement that Jordan reached with the Paris Club of government creditors last month. [passage omitted]

Minister on Debt Writeoff, Custody of Shrines

NC3007190294 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Interview with Information Minister Jawad al-'Anani by MBC correspondent Hanan al-Badri in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Badri] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has told Congress that the U.S. Administration will write off a third of Jordan's debt to the United States and that the abolition of the remaining two-thirds depends on Jordan's continued commitment to attain a peace agreement with Israel.

[Al-'Anani] We have been promised that the entire debt will be written off. The first part of the debt will be abolished by the end of the current fiscal year on 30 September. The two remaining thirds will be written off in 1995 and 1996. Of course, the U.S. secretary of state would say that this is linked to progress in the peace negotiations.

[Al-Badri] Jordan has also been given promises of U.S. military aid.

[Al-'Anani] Yes, promises have been given regarding military aid and financial aid. I believe it is not a bad deal.

[Al-Badri] Yasir 'Arafat has requested a meeting of the Arab League Council to discuss the Jerusalem affair. Don't you believe this request shows a lack of inter-Arab coordination?

[Al-'Anani] We expect the brothers in the PLO to be responsive to Jordan's request for coordination. We hope this will occur soon. I believe that a discussion of the issue by the Arab League is not necessary at this point.

[Al-Badri] Some Palestinian leaders believe that it is inappropriate to raise the Jerusalem issue on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

[Al-'Anani] We recognize Palestinian sovereignty. We acknowledge that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. We do not seek to change this fact at all. As to the Islamic holy shrines, however, they cannot be the monopoly of any one party. They belong to all Muslims. Geographical sovereignty over them is one thing, religious custodianship is another. Hence Jordan will exercise this custodial right to protect those holy places until we reach the stage when the final status negotiations are held.

[Al-Badri] Observers believe that the Jerusalem issue must be tackled through Palestinian-Jordanian bilateral talks held in the context of inter-Arab coordination. The aim is to avert undesirable surprises that might reduce the Arab negotiators' effectiveness.

Protest Marches Against Washington Declaration

JN3007080494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Amman—Over the past few days, several sit-ins and marches have been staged in the Jordanian capital, Amman, and other major Jordanian cities to protest the Washington Declaration signed by King Husayn and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on 25 July.

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In a report carried yesterday, the Kuwaiti News Agency said that representatives of the political parties opposed to peace with Israel, as well as trade, popular, and student associations took part in these marches, demanding the revocation of this declaration, as well as the revocation of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

Several sit-ins have been staged in public squares, mosques, universities, and institutes of higher education. A mammoth march was staged in Irbid, the largest city in northern Jordan, condemning the Washington Declaration. Opposition parties, along with people affiliated with 12 trade associations opposed to normalization with Israel comprising 100,000 members, chief among which are the physicians, engineers, lawyers, pharmacists, and writers associations, as well as a large number of popular figures not affiliated with political parties or trade associations, have sent memorandums to the government demanding neutrality of the news media.

Party Leader: Resist Normalization With Israel

JN3107120794 Amman AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic
28 Jul 94 p 1

["Political Light" column by Sulayman 'Arar, secretary general of al-Mustaqbal Party: "Lifeboat"]

[Text] No citizen can ignore the developments of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations or remain passive toward what is going on. The subject is more dangerous and more serious than any other political event that has occurred or will occur in our country.

We, and those who are around 60 years of age, have grown up seeing King Husayn filling any vacuum in our country. All the schools, roads, hospitals, factories, or facilities in Jordan have been built during his tenure, under his auspices and at his instructions. He has been the one to take care of every private or public incident. His patience and way of dealing with things increased people's love for him.

I do not say this to flatter him or to seek a gain or a post, but to open the eyes and ears very well to what I am going to say. For us all, the reality has not been absent, especially during the last five years after democracy returned to our country.

Let us now get down to our subject of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations. The support for these negotiations, which we hear, together with the hesitant positions of parties and public figures are due to the fact that his majesty the king is the head of state who leads the march, so how can we express our opinion without doing injustice to the leader whose love is deeply rooted in our hearts? The government has taken cover behind him. The ministers, as they say, implement his instructions. Shall we say that we do not support this march and do not believe that it is in the interest of our country and our future generations? Shall we say that the government has not been frank, and has not discussed this subject seriously with any party or intellectual in our homeland? Shall we say that holy Jerusalem has been relinquished and our positions that we had repeated hundreds of times have been abandoned in return for promised gains, that had been promised to former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Yasir 'Arafat, but which have never been fulfilled. Will this long rejection of dealing with the Zionists end up with us inviting them to share everything? Have all our positions and martyrs been wrong, and, now that we know the right path, we have returned to what is correct?

Sycophants will answer: What do you want us to do? We cannot fight Israel. The Arabs abandoned their duty, and they are all careless and seek Israel's love approval.

Yes, this is probably right, but have we set conditions on Israeli armament, for example, or on the U.S.-Israeli plans to build strategic industries and manufacture Star War weapons in Israel with U.S. funds? The answer to all this is that money, support, and weapons will continue, and Israel will have access to Arab markets and will reap the profits.

We know that the peace train with Israel will move forward to its objectives. However, we the people have only one lifeboat, which is to resist cultural, social, and economic normalization with Israel. This is our reply, and this is our lifeboat. The Lord is the (sure) accomplisher of what He planneth. [Koranic verse]

Jerusalem Clause, Israeli Claims Criticized

JN3107123994 Amman AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic
28 Jul 94 p 6

["Words" column by Mahmud al-Rimawi: "Special Status and Comprehensiveness"]

[Text] I continue to believe that the religious and spiritual character of occupied Arab Jerusalem should enhance the political importance of this holy city, and that one should not deal with it on the basis of two dimensions; political and religious.

As a matter of fact, having captured the city in June 1967 by force the Israelis realized before us the political importance of Jerusalem, given that it is a city which interests the entire world, is located in the heart of the West Bank, and is a rare touristic attraction, in addition to its being an Islamic and Christian Palestinian Arab land where there are Jewish places of worship.

The Israelis, backed by the might of military occupation, did not tarry in treating the city as an indivisible whole. At the beginning, they claimed that they had united the divided city. This is like someone who captures part of a building then does his best to seize the other part, and claims that by doing so, he has done a service to mankind.

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According to the Israelis, the unification of the city—its western part that was occupied in 1948, with its eastern part that was occupied in 1967—has been a service to the city and an objection to its partitioning. Swindler Minister Shim'on Peres likes to repeat that this resembles the case of Berlin. This is a warped comparison. German Berlin returned to the Germans and not to another people, as is the case with Jerusalem.

The forced unification was carried out within a war of aggression at the end of which international Resolution 242 was issued calling on the occupiers to withdraw from it, contrary to Berlin which was reunited upon the desire of the Germans in the eastern and western parts of the city.

With the renewed interest, these days, in the holy city on more than one level, one cannot but voice the conviction that any attempt to separate the Jerusalem issue from the issue of the other occupied territories is a wrong approach and entails many perils, particularly that the Israelis, from their side, have always claimed that the Jerusalem issue is independent from the West Bank issue, or according to the odious Israeli appellation, the issue of the "other territories."

Although it is completely true to say that Jerusalem has a special character and a spiritual and religious status, this specialness should have been kept within the general and comprehensive status of the occupied territories. This means that this specialness does not justify separating the issue, because if one falls into the trap of such classifications, one may conclude that Bethlehem too should have a special status since it is where Christ was born, and also the same could apply to Gaza and Hebron. Thus, we will reach a state of affairs where, under the pretext of special traits, the occupied territories will be viewed as comprising independent slots, each governed by independent provisions and which have nothing in common. The Israelis will benefit from such a state of affairs more than any Arab party because the Israelis are the ones who now control the land by force.

The sound and most logical approach is that the Jerusalem issue be listed within the framework of the cause of the occupied territories which are being subjected to settlers and military occupation.

EU Extends Telecommunication, Water Project Loans

JN0108094094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
1 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The European Union is extending about JD [Jordanian dinars] 31 million to finance telecommunication and water projects in Jordan through the European Investment Bank (EIB) at concessional rates, it was announced here Sunday.

A press release from the European Commission, the executive arm of the EU, said 25 million European currency units (ECUs) or JD 21 million, were being lent for expanding international telephone links to outlying regions and installation of new links with the West Bank and Lebanon and with other neighbouring countries.

Another loan, of 12 million ECUs (around JD 10 million), is for the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) for an environmental improvement scheme involving rehabilitation of water supply systems serving al-Salt. The loan will also have a two per cent interest subsidy from the European Commission's budget.

The European Commission has signed four cooperation protocols with Jordan under a broader accord reached between the 12-member European Union and Jordan. The European Commission is the executive arm of the union and administers EU assistance to countries separate from bilateral agreements reached between EU member countries and recipients.

The fourth protocol, which covers 1992-96 provides for a total of 126 million ECUs (JD 115.5 million); 80 million ECUs (JD 67.04 million) will be in the form of EIB loans, 44 million EUCs (JD 36.97 million) in grants and two million ECUs (JD 1.676 million) in contribution to risk capital help for entreperneurs. About 34 million ECUs ($29.22 million) have already been allocated for the rehabilitation of the Amman-al-'Aqabah desert highway.

The commission and the government last week signed an accord under which Jordan would get JD 9 million—most of it as grant—for water-related projects.

The latest EIB loans for telecommunciations will help Jordan's current five-year programme to expand the telephone network and double capacity (280,000 lines).

It follows on from an initial loan of ECU 20 million from the EIB, advanced in November 1993, to increase switching capacity at several regional exchanges and boost international telecommunications connections with Egypt and Syria, and then Europe.

The works financed are being undertaken by the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC).

The switching equipment, serving about 20 areas, is due to be installed by 1996, and the works to lay 70 fibre-optic cables (some providing links with Jericho), establish 13 microwave links (including some to Lebanon) and connect up new lines are scheduled for completion in 1998, the commission said.

"Given the joint benefits of this investment scheme for the countries in the area and for the community, particularly in view of the peace process under way in the Middle East, these funds are being advanced under EC-Mediterranean 'horizontal financial cooperation' agreements," the press release said.

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The ECU 12 million to the WAJ for the al-Salt environmental improvement scheme, is made available under the fourth EC-Jordan protocol.

The project centres on renovation of the town's water distribution and sewerage networks, which date from the 1940s and which serve a rapidly expanding population now numbering some 67,500.

The works involve laying of some 440 kilometres of water supply pipes, construction of eight reservoirs and eight pumping stations, fitting of 20,000 water metres and installation of 12 kilometres of sewers.

"The aim is to cut down considerably on losses in the system, currently estimated at one million cubic metres of drinking water a year, to protect groundwater resources by reducing wastewater infiltration and over-abstraction, to improve the quality of the water supplied and the service provided and to increase the volume of revenue received."

This is the fifth operation concluded between the EIB and the WAJ, the press release said.

Modernisation of al-Salt's water management systems forms part of the measures being undertaking by the government towards rational use and conservation of the country's water resources, measures which have been attracting EIB support for several years, with loans for water management schemes in the towns of al-Zarqa', Irbid and al-Ramtha, a project to raise the height of the al-Kafrayn dam and rehabilitation of King 'Abdallah canal, it said.

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Fundamentalist Groups Claim London Bombings

NC2907134694 Paris AFP in English 1331 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, July 29 (AFP)—Moslem fundamentalist groups have claimed responsibility for the bomb attacks on Israeli and Jewish targets in London that wounded 20 people earlier this week.

An anonymous telephone caller said Friday [29 July] that the Movement of the Oppressed was prepared to "deal a very heavy blow to countries which cooperate with the Zionist entity" in retaliation for any attack on Lebanon.

The Movement of the Oppressed "claims responsibility for the operations which were carried out in Britain," he said in a call to AFP.

The bomb attacks targetting the Israeli embassy on Tuesday and a Jewish center early Wednesday were "in response to massacres carried out by the Jews and the Americans," the caller said.

He threatened to "step up" violence on all fronts.

"We pledge to our martyrs and to the martyrs of Islam that we will continue to attack Jewish interests all over the world," he added.

The caller did not mention the bomb attack on a Jewish charity in Buenos Aires on July 18 that killed nearly 100 people.

In a separate claim of responsibility on Thursday, a statement sent to the London-based Arabic daily Al-Hayah said the bombings in the British capital were the work of the Palestinian Resistance-Palestine Jaffa Team.

London was singled out because of its historic role in the creation of the state of Israel, it said.

Neither group provided any means of proving their claims.

Britain and Argentina have linked the bombings to Iran, the Iranian-backed Hezbollah and other Moslem fundamentalist organisations.

But President Carlos Menem of Argentina conceded on Thursday that there was no proof of Iranian involvement, while British Prime Minister John Major has also avoided naming a guilty party.

"We cannot yet be certain who lay behind these acts, or whether they are connected," he said.

But in Washington, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher urged US allies to isolate Iran economically because of its patronage of terrorist groups.

Both Iran and Hezbollah, as well as the Palestinian Moslem fundamentalist movement HAMAS, have denied involvement in the bombings.

Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal warned Friday that his country had a right to strike back against terrorists with "all appropriate means."

"Israel will have an active policy because of our ability to locate, find and strike terrorists who target Israelis and Jews throughout the world," he told Israel's military radio.

In Syria, meanwhile, official newspapers charged that Israel was pinning the blame on Lebanese groups for the London and Buenos Aires bombings to justify a military operation in Lebanon.

"Israel wants Lebanon to sign a peace accord without conditions. To do so, it is preparing an attack on that country using the bombing as a pretext," said the government daily Al-Ba'ath.

Argentine Extradition Request Reportedly Rejected

MM2907124294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Lebanon Rejects Argentine Request to Extradite al-Tufayli, Believes It Arbitrary and Made on Direct Orders from Mosad"]

[Excerpts] Beirut, AL-HAYAH—A ministerial source has said that Lebanon has rejected Argentina's request to extradite Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, former secretary general of Hizballah, on the pretext that he has a link with the explosion in the Jewish center in Buenos Aires. The source stressed that the Argentine Government's request "was taken arbitrarily and on direct orders from the Israeli intelligence service (Mosad), not as a result of an investigation conducted by competent authorities through which they found evidence of his link."

The source stressed to AL-HAYAH that Lebanon has recently received two messages from the Argentine Government through its ambassador in Buenos Aires, Riyad al-Qantar, containing an indirect request for the extradition of Shaykh al-Tufayli and certain other, unnamed elements.

The sources said that the Argentine request "lacks any evidence, proofs, or factual findings to prove that Shaykh al-Tufayli or any Lebanese or non-Lebanese group residing on Lebanese territory has any link with the Jewish center bombing. Besides, the Argentine request contravenes the rules applied among states as regards the extradition of wanted people."

The source revealed that Argentine messages to Beirut via Ambassador al-Qantar contain no evidence and are based primarily on news reports carried by the media, some of which hastened to denied what they had reported about the link of the so-called "Ansarullah's" with the bombing incident. Besides, the reports were based on "information" provided to an Argentine judge

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by a dissident Iranian living in Caracas (Venezuela) who supplied him with some names.

On the nature of the Lebanese reply to the Argentine request, the source told AL-HAYAH that the Lebanese Government has stressed that there is no political organization with the name "Ansarullah" and has ruled out the suggestion that any Lebanese or foreign party residing on Lebanese territory has any link with the incident.

The source stressed that the Argentine Government "is anxious to perform a 'fuite en avant.'" And that President Carlos Menem "made his accusation following a direct request from Mosad, which he met by promising to level the accusation against a fundamentalist party like Hizballah."

The source pointed out that Argentina's request is "suspicious" and that the [Lebanese] government had urged Buenos Aires to "conduct an investigation and provide us with the results. Whereupon, if there is any evidence of the involvement of any Lebanese group, we will do our duty, even though we firmly believe that no one in Lebanon has any link with the bombing incident. And the accusation leveled at Shaykh al-Tufayli on the pretext that he is the leader of 'Ansarullah' is not supported by evidence or factual findings."

The source said that Argentina's request "lacks any physical evidence. As for the form, an extradition request should come accompanied by a file in order to get any wanted person handed over—which was not the case with the request we received via Ambassador al-Qantar." The source added that "any extradition request should contain the results of the investigation—which has not happened, as the request contained nothing except the rumors released by the media and whose source is Tel Aviv."

The source wondered: "Is the government allowed to extradite any Lebanese or foreign person residing on Lebanese territory merely because of a word said or a rumor circulated by Israel." The source stressed that the Lebanese Government has conveyed to Ambassador al-Qantar through the Foreign Ministry a clear position condemning acts of violence against civilians. And that the statement attributed to the "Ansarullah" organization does not constitute evidence or proof, especially as the statement was later denied as a whole and in detail.

In this context Hizballah Deputy Secretary-General Shaykh Na'im Qasim has told AL-HAYAH that "anyone who watches developments beginning with the Argentina bombing through to the accusation leveled at us—given that there were no prior information—can conclude that the accusations are based on no evidence and were fabricated to divert attention to a quarter hostile to Israel in order to relieve the Israeli Government of the popular pressure it is under and in order to enable it to exploit the incident in the direction it wants."

Officials, Groups Expect Israeli Military Reponse

U.S. Approval Alleged

NC3007062794 Paris AFP in English 2101 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, 29 Jul (AFP)—The Iranian-backed Hizballah Friday [29 July] accused the United States of giving Israel the green light to launch a major military operation against Lebanon in retaliation for anti-Jewish bombings, but warned that its guerrillas would respond appropriately.

In a statement issued here, the fundamentalist movement denounced a call by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher for its defeat as "a mask for a new large-scale Zionist (Israeli) aggression against Lebanon."

The statement was issued after an extraordinary Hizballah meeting in Beirut attended by leaders of its military wing, the Islamic Resistance.

Christopher's call "reveals Washington's determination to make war on all those who may oppose its global policy, notably in the Middle East," Hizballah said.

"U.S.-Zionist aggression will not be an easy ride and will meet with an adequate response from the resistance."

Christopher made a blistering attack Thursday on Hizballah, which is financed by Iran and supported politically by Syria, the main foreign power-broker in Lebanon.

"Groups like Hizballah that wreak havoc and bloodshed must be defeated," Christopher told a U.S. House committee. "Hizballah's patron, Iran, must be contained," he added.

Officials in Washington and Tel Aviv said they were convinced Hizballah was behind acts of violence aimed at undermining the Middle East peace process, and implicated it in a spate of recent anti-Jewish bombings.

But Hizballah denied involvement in the July 18 bombing of a Jewish charity in Argentina that killed at least 96 people and bomb attacks in London Tuesday and Wednesday that left 20 wounded.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said Friday his country had only "indirect proof" of Hizballah involvement in the attacks.

Hizballah said Israel, with U.S. backing, made the accusations "in order to blacken the reputation of the resistance against the Israeli occupation (of south Lebanon)."

It urged the British and Argentine governments to "resist the blackmail by Washington and Tel Aviv and refrain from making unproven accusations, so as to avoid giving cover, willingly or not, for such aggression."

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The movement warned them not to adopt "positions which may harm their relations with the peoples of the region and put them, without provocation, in the enemy camp."

The Hizballah leaders discussed the U.S. and Israeli "threats" and dispatch of extra Israeli troops to south Lebanon and "adopted a series of measures," the statement said, without elaborating.

Hizballah To Respond

NC3007071594 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Following a meeting of its leadership, Hizballah has declared that U.S. and Zionist threats seek to defame the resistance. It called on the London and Buenos Aires governments not to give in to extortion and U.S. and Zionist threats. The Hizballah statement emphasized that any aggression against Lebanon will be confronted appropriately and with firmness.

South Fears Retaliation

NC3007100694 Paris AFP in English 0911 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Report by Muntasser Abdallah]

[Text] Kafr Tibnit, Lebanon, 30 Jul (AFP)—Hundreds of families are fleeing their villages in south Lebanon for fear of Israeli retaliation for the London and Buenos Aires bombings.

Around half of the 4,000 inhabitants of Kafr Tibnit, on the edge of an Israeli-occupied "security zone," have already fled, the village butcher Hasan Faqih said Saturday.

"All I know is that Israel is threatening to come back. But I don't have the means to escape with my husband and seven children because I don't have the money," said one of those left behind, Salman Salman.

But outside his grocery, 55-year-old Abu-Hasan said he was determined to stand and fight.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said the Iranian- backed Hizballah "must be defeated," clearing the way for an Israeli attack, the grocer said. "I will stay behind and resist with arms if necessary."

The Shiite Moslem fundamentalist Hizballah on Friday [29 July] accused the United States of giving Israel the green light to launch a major military operation in retaliation for the anti-Jewish bombings in Buenos Aires and London.

Christopher's condemnation of Hizballah was "a mask for a new large-scale Zionist aggression against Lebanon." But "U.S.-Zionist aggression will not be an easy ride and will meet with an adequate response from the resistance."

"Groups like Hizballah that wreak havoc and bloodshed must be defeated," the secretary of state told a U.S. House committee.

Hizballah has denied U.S. and Israeli charges of involvement in the July 18 bombing of a Jewish charity in Argentina that killed at least 96 people and bomb attacks in London on Tuesday and Wednesday that left 20 wounded.

Investigators have said there was so far no conclusive evidence to identify who was responsible.

Hizballah said Israel and the United States made the accusations "in order to blacken the reputation of the resistance against the Israeli occupation (of south Lebanon)."

Further north from Kafr Tibnit, in the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills which are a Hizballah stronghold, summer holiday-makers have stayed away and at least 50 cars loaded with families have left the village of 'Arab Salim alone.

Fear has also crept into al-Nabatiyah, the largest Shiite town in south Lebanon, and the Israeli offensive of July 1993 which left 120 dead and destroyed 2,000 homes is on everyone's lips.

The governor, Ghazi Zu'aytar, says however that the 50,000 population has so far kept its cool. "Only a few dozen have left out of fear," he said.

But emergency services have already been mobilized and the local civil defence has called for reinforcements, ambulances and fire engines in case of a flare-up.

Retaliation Expected

NC3007141594 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Khalil Fulayhan]

[Excerpts] Diplomatic sources at the Foreign Ministry have not ruled out an Israeli attack on Hizballah, which might not be limited to an air raid or land or sea bombardment but could involve a concentrated shelling of military assembly points like the attack on 'Ayn Kawkaba; the kidnapping of officials from their houses as the Israelis did when they abducted Mustafa al-Dirani, the official in charge of the Faithful Resistance; or the assassination of Hizballah leaders. [passage omitted]

The sources said that the situation started to deteriorate on 18 July, the day of the explosion in the Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, and that the frenzy reached a climax with the two London explosions that took place a few hours apart. The first explosion targeted the Israeli Embassy in London, which was severely damaged.

The sources revealed that Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz told U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley during their lengthy meeting yesterday that there are several

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signs pointing to a military deterioration that should not happen, since it would affect the negotiations process on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks, which have been frozen for more than three months. The sources added that Hambley was more of a listener than a speaker, and when he did speak he only expressed hopes that no military deterioration would take place. The ambassador hinted that the U.S. Administration has no information about the perpetrator of the operation or whether he was a Lebanese who belongs to Hizballah and that U.S. investigators tend to believe that the decisions to stage these operations might have been made outside Lebanon but that Lebanese persons might have taken part in them.

The sources cited Minister Buwayz as telling Hambley: Why is Hizballah or any other Lebanese organization always accused? Why believe a statement carried by a world news agency but not a statement issued by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in which it assumed responsibility for the explosion at the Israeli Embassy in London?

The sources urged caution and vigilance and continued diplomatic efforts to reduce the forcefulness of the Israeli reaction, which will have U.S. backing. But, the sources added, we should not be gripped by fear and terror because any possible blow will be a repeat of former blows that have taken place during the confrontations with Israel.

Nasrallah Expects Assassinations

NC3007185494 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] In Lebanon, Hizballah has taken stringent precautionary measures following the Israeli and U.S. threats. Hizballah has been accused of being involved in the London and Buenos Aires explosions.

In an exclusive interview with MBC Television, Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah said he is expecting some party officials to be assassinated. He confirmed that contacts are being made with the Iranian, Syrian, and Lebanese Governments.

[Begin recording] [Nasrallah] We believe that anything is possible. There could be a security action, and this would not be something new. Some Hizballah leaders have been assassinated in the past. The Israeli Air Force assassinated former Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi in broad daylight together with his wife and three- or four-year-old child who were with him in the vehicle. A military action is also possible. Therefore, we believe that anything is possible and we are acting on this basis, both with regard to precautions and confronting the aggression with the legitimate and appropriate means of defense.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is there some sort of contacts to assess the situation or to try to calm it?

[Nasrallah] There are normal and constant contacts between Hizballah and the resistance in Lebanon on one hand and the Lebanese, Syrian, and Iranian Governments on the other, regardless of the incidents, because these countries support the Lebanese people's right to self-defense and to resist the occupiers. We do not talk with them as a sort of a reaction to every incident. We are a resistance force and we do not hesitate in doing whatever our resistance needs to achieve its objectives of liberating the occupied territories, such as having contacts, ties, meetings, stances, and a jihad. [end recording]

Sources Deny U.S. Requested Hizballah Information

NC3007104294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Beirut, 30 Jul (MENA)—Responsible sources in the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs today denied reports that the U.S. Embassy in Beirut has requested that the ministry provide it with accurate information about a number of Hizballah officials, particularly Subhi al-Tufayli, whom Israel associates with blowing up the Jewish center in Buenos Aires.

The sources told MENA that the Lebanese Foreign Ministry has not received such a request from the American Embassy until the present time, noting that the accusations will remain unfounded unless the Argentine Government submits a full judicial file with substantiated evidence and a definite indictment against specific persons.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz yesterday affirmed to U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley that the Israeli campaign was based on falsehoods and misleading hypotheses supported by no logic or law. Buwayz described the campaign as an excuse to mount a series of Israeli aggressions against Lebanon.

The Foreign Ministry sources revealed also that Minister Buwayz indirectly criticized the statements U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher made before Congress a few days ago. Christopher leveled accusations against Lebanese elements in connection with the Buenos Aires and London explosions before any legal evidence was found.

The sources note that Buwayz requested an explanation of the implications of these statements, which he described as provocative, and even as threatening and tantamount to declaring war and giving Israel free hand to carry out its threats under international cover and backing.

The U.S. ambassador had earlier affirmed that the United States had no evidence indicating Lebanese involvement in the explosions.

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Ex-Hizballah Chief al-Tufayli on Situation

Denies Ansarallah's Existence

NC2907171594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Former Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli denied in a Friday sermon that today he made accusations leveled at Hizballah, Hamas, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said that reports about these accusations are false and fabricated by American and Israeli intelligence. He also denied the existence of an organization called Ansarallah. He said: All this is not true. We do not deny this to absolve ourselves of any charges but to tell the truth.

Meanwhile, Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli activities in Lebanon, announced that Israel lacks evidence to prove that Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli is behind the London and Buenos Aires incidents.

Says Israeli 'Probably Dead'

NC3007115994 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Former Hizballah Secretary General Subhi al-Tufayli said today that Israeli pilot Ron Arad, captured in Lebanon in 1986, is most probably dead.

In an interview with L'ORIENT LE JOUR newspaper, he said Iran and Syria have made strenuous efforts to discover the pilot's whereabouts but have failed. Al-Tufayli asked: If the man is not held by the fundamentalists, Iranians, or the Syrians, where could he possibly be and what is the aim of holding him for such a long time? He remarked: In view of all these questions, it seems to me that Ron Arad may have died in some kind of accident and this is why not even his body had been found.

Vows To Destroy Peace Deals

NC3107064194 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Former Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli has denied any connection with the Buenos Aires bombing. He accused the United States of inventing the charges.

Al-Tufayli added: We will endeavor to destroy the peace documents being concluded by the Arab regimes with the Zionist entity. He pointed out that the fingers of those who herald the benefits of peace will be burned by the fire of this peace.

Hizballah Official on Israeli, U.S. Threats

NC3007145294 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Interview with Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] As always, the south is at the forefront of events. The situation there is very critical. It appears that there is a plan that will start with a security flare-up and might end with a political relaxation that leads to peace. Shaykh Qasim, what are your expectations?

[Qasim] We do not believe that the atmosphere that the Israeli enemy and the United States are trying to create will lead to a political relaxation. There is a feeling that the resistance in the south is playing a major influential and effective role. The Americans and the Israelis are hurt by the effectiveness of the resistance and this is not helping them impose their conditions and continue Israel's occupation of territories. Therefore, they are preparing this overall media climate of accusations against Hizballah and creating an atmosphere of tension to persist with the Israeli aggression. We have gotten used to this aggression, which has been going on for a long time. There are no unusual measures but a browbeating that aims to create the conditions for restraining the resistance and achieving political gains. But we do not expect them to achieve this objective. There might be some specific security blows and a limited aggression, but we do not expect them to be the prelude to political relaxation because the situation is very complicated.

[Correspondent] Is there an exodus? Reports say that Hizballah's officials have taken precautionary measures and moved out from their usual residences. What is the situation?

[Qasim] There is a limited exodus from some of the villages on the lines of contact. This is natural because the clamor raised by the Israeli enemy with U.S. backing is helping to frighten people and bring about this exodus. As to the precautions taken by Hizballah's officials, these are natural because we are confronting an usurping enemy and are in an open battle with it. Hence, it is not out of the ordinary if we do not make ourselves easy prey. It is natural that we should take all the appropriate measures and precautions to inflict losses on the enemy and avoid losses in our ranks and in the ranks of our people.

[Correspondent] Are there unusual troop reinforcements on the Israeli side?

[Qasim] There are reinforcements in some areas while there are none in others. There are some additional reinforcements in the areas near Marj 'Uyun but there are none in the other southern areas.

[Correspondent] According to the United States, Hizballah is being accused of terrorism and U.S. Secretary of State Christopher called for striking you and isolating your sponsor in the region, Iran. What is your response?

[Qasim] Terrorism is aggression against peaceful people, striking civilians, and shelling and destroying villages. Hizballah has never carried out such acts. Hizballah

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resists the occupation and it is the liberator of the land. Hizballah has held high the heads of the Arab and Islamic nation and the Lebanese people by resisting and staging jihad against the Israeli enemy who occupies the land.

Terrorism is represented by Israel and the United States. Israel shells our people, destroys our villages, and commits aggression against people on all levels. It committed a massacre against the al-Ibrahimi Mosque and interferes in world affairs to achieve its expansionist aims. The United States sponsors terrorism because it supports Israel to strengthen it against the region's oppressed nations.

So, if the United States or Israel brand Hizballah with terrorism, this does not mean that they are exonerated from the same charges. Hizballah represents resistance and we have the honor to scare the terrorists—the United States and Israel.

[Correspondent] President Ilyas al-Hirawi expressed his readiness to send 20,000 troops to the south to maintain security. As a resistance organization, are you willing to surrender your weapons and hand over the responsibility for security and resistance to the Lebanese Army?

[Qasim] We are not responsible for security in any place in Lebanon and do not seek to be responsible for security at all. We welcomed the Lebanese Army when it entered the south to maintain security. If the Lebanese Army wants to preserve security at any place, we do not oppose it but rather facilitate its task. We distinguish between security and resistance; resistance is confronting an occupier and fighting an enemy. We are resistance, not a security authority and do not want to be a substitute for the security authority.

If the president wishes to send additional troops for security reasons when there is a need, we are not against it and we see that security does exist. As for resistance, anyone who wants to rally his strength and capability to help resistance and liberate the land, we welcome him. I do not believe that what is now proposed is that the resistance should give up its weapons in the face of the Israeli enemy. What should always be proposed is supporting the resistance against the Israeli enemy.

[Correspondent] What would be the solution should we clash over the concepts of resistance and security?

[Qasim] I do not believe that this is likely to happen now and it is improper to raise unlikely issues. Security is being maintained and the resistance is carrying out its duty and everyone sympathizes with it on official, public, Army, and all levels. Hence there is no need to create a crisis by meaningless statements and words as long as there is full cooperation and understanding in the field among all parties. Thank God we are in the best stage in Lebanon.

[Correspondent] A final question, Shaykh Na'im Qasim, deputy secretary general of Hizballah. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Zarif [title and name as heard] says Tehran is ready for a serious, full international cooperation to combat world terrorism. As a party, do you agree to cooperate with the United States in this regard?

[Qasim] We are ready to cooperate with all parties to combat terrorism but do not believe that the United States is the party to cooperate with because it basically supports Israeli terrorism and exercises terrorism against nations to impose its views and convictions. How can terrorism be combated through the United States, which supports this terrorism? Let the United States stop supporting terrorism first and then things will be decided in due course. We consider ourselves concerned with confronting terrorism along with all the honest people and we top the list of those who reject terrorism. We wouldn't have worked to liberate our land if we were not opposed to the Israeli terrorism.

Friday Sermons Denounce U.S., Israeli 'Threats'

NC2907200094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jul 94

[By unidentified radio correspondent in Beirut on 29 July—recorded]

[Text] Friday sermons delivered in various Lebanese mosques today emphasized resistance against U.S. and Zionist plots. Preachers said that the threats made against Muslims are designed to stem the tide of the international Islamic movement.

Speaking at al-Rida Mosque in Beirut's southern suburb, His Eminence 'Allamah Shaykh Fadlallah said that the threats directed by Washington and Tel Aviv against the Islamic Republic of Iran and Hizballah of Lebanon are part of a political, media, and security bid to subjugate the Islamic revolutionary movement in the world to U.S. policies.

Shaykh Fadlallah said that Iran's problem is that it refuses to accommodate U.S. schemes of hegemony. He ruled out the possibility of the Zionist enemy waging a large-scale military offensive against Lebanon. The political circumstances in the region preclude such a possibility, but the enemy could mount security operations that may involve a war of assassinations.

Fadlallah pointed out that the Lebanese resistance will confront any Zionist attacks regardless of their scale and will inflict a political and military defeat on the enemy.

In Sidon, Sunni Jurist Shaykh Ahmad al-Zayn said in a Friday sermon that America and Israel would be greatly mistaken to overlook the tremendous potential of the Islamic peoples. Neither Israel or America would gain anything from their attempt to oppress the Muslims. The latter, armed with their values and principles, will resist their policies and triumph, al-Zayn said.

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In Tripoli, Islamic Unification Movement leader Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban said in a Friday sermon that America is pledged to defend the Zionist enemy even if whole nations are killed and dispersed as a result. The day will come when Washington will learn that its attempt to impose its policy forcibly on the dispossessed of the earth was foolish.

Birri on Resistance, Blockade, Israeli Aims

NC3007171394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Developments during the past few hours indicate that Israel has retracted its threats. AFP reports that the occupation forces have withdrawn military reinforcements, which they brought into the occupied border strip early this week.

For the fifth consecutive day, the Israeli forces are continuing the blockade of Yuhmur-al-Shaqif Town, whose residents staged a sit-in at the Lebanese Red Cross headquarters in al-Nabatiyah demanding that the blockade on their town be lifted.

A delegation of the town residents met Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri at his home in al-Musaylih, where Birri made several remarks on developments in the south and the blockade of Yuhmur Town.

Speaker Birri said: We will not abandon resistance despite all pressures. He added that Lebanon has three cards; resistance, solidarity with Syria, and internal national unity.

He said the United States proves every day that it facilitates things for the Israelis. He added that Lebanon will play the Lebanese election card in the United States to lift Israel's injustice practiced by using its election card in the United States.

He warned that if the blockade on Yuhmur-al-Shaqif is not lifted by Monday, we will make another move. He noted that what is taking place indirectly is the annexation of the town to the border strip and that the blockade is an actual means of pressure against us. The aim, he said, has always been to create a rift between the resistance and the inhabitants of the south.

Israel Reportedly Pulls Reinforcements From South

NC3007150994 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, July 30 (AFP)—Israel late Friday withdrew the military reinforcements which it had sent into its "security zone" in south Lebanon at the start of the week.

Sources close to Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), said Israel withdrew three artillery pieces, five Merkava tanks, four troop carriers and a mobile headquarters.

After an Israeli officer was killed by Hizballah guerrillas Monday, Israel's operational chief in Lebanon, Uri Lubrani, warned of "painful" reprisals against the Iranian-backed fundamentalist movement.

The Israeli withdrawal came in spite of US calls for the isolation of Iran and defeat of Hizballah, held responsible for recent anti-Jewish bombings in Buenos Aires and London.

Tehran and Hizballah both denied involvement in the July 18 bombing of a Jewish charity in Argentina that killed nearly 100 people and bomb attacks in London on Tuesday and Wednesday that left 20 wounded.

On Thursday the Lebanese government set up a crisis team to deal with any Israeli attack.

Hundreds of families have been fleeing their villages in south Lebanon for fear of Israeli retaliation for the bombings.

Hizballah Friday accused the United States of giving Israel the green light to launch a major military operation.

Israeli, Hizballah Forces Carry Out Activities

Israel Shells Areas in South

NC3007120194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Israel last night intermittently shelled the heights of Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly the hills of Mlita and Jabal Safi and the southeastern edges of 'Arab Salim and Nab' al-Tasi, as well as the heights of the al-Surayri and al-Dallafah suburbs.

Israel has continued its siege of Yuhmur for the fourth straight day. A number of Yuhmur residents are holding a sit-in at the Red Cross center in al-Nabatiyah.

Meanwhile, sources close to the agent Lahd militia said that Israel last night pulled back some of the military reinforcements it sent to the occupied border strip at the beginning of the week. The sources said that the occupation forces withdrew three 155-mm artillery pieces, five Merkava tanks, and four armored personnel carriers from the Marj 'Uyun plain.

The occupation forces have shelled the al-Litani River basin and the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and fired flares over the area. The occupation forces also fired flares over Zibqin al-Qulaylah shortly after midnight last night.

Hizballah Claims Attack on SLA

NC3107191894 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Hizballah claimed responsibility for an attack today on a South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol in the occupied border strip but no casualties were reported.

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In a statement it issued in Beirut today, Hizballah said its fighters detonated a mine when a SLA patrol was passing near Bayt Yahun. The Lebanese police confirmed that there was an explosion near Bayt Yahun but did not give any details. However, it added that the artillery positions in the occupied areas fired a large number of shells on the northern side of this area.

REUTER reported that Muslim fundamentalists vowed today to hit northern Israel with rockets if the latter's forces attack south Lebanon. A pro-Iranian leader, who asked to remain anonymous, told REUTER: If the Israelis shell south Lebanon, then we will shell the settlements in northern Palestine. If they displace 300,000 Lebanese villagers, then we will displace 150,000 villagers in retaliation.

Israelis Bombard Western al-Biqa'

NC0108135594 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Our correspondent in western al-Biqa' reports that the Israeli forces bombarded the area of Jabal Abu-Rashid and Birkat Jabbur from their positions in Marj 'uyun between 1000 and 1130 today.

President al-Hirawi Gives Army Day Speech

NC0108102194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0711 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Speech by President Ilyas al-Hirawi at a ceremony marking Lebanese Army Day, at the graduation ceremony of the Military Academy in Beirut—live]

[Text] Today you new graduates will be presented with swords of the state of peace, and with them the honor of belonging to the Lebanese Army. Ahead of you is a career for which you have been well-trained. Your performance will be a tribute to your commanders and a legacy to future generations. Live up to your pledge, stay loyal to your state, and defend your country. You are the fruit of our work and the hope of our future. Remember that your institution stands tall through its tradition of dignity, sacrifice, and loyalty.

Military men, you celebrate your day today as the country marks its fifth year of peace. We have already restored the basic services and are braced for reconstruction. We take pride in the achievements of your institution. Military unity embodies the reconciliation achieved in this beloved country. Your competence has been evident in all the tasks entrusted to you by the state.

In humility, I salute your martyrs. I salute all of you heroes who, in cooperation with the other security services, defend the citizen's rights to safety and dignity in a country with a renewed sense of self-confidence and hope.

O Lebanese, it is true that the advent of peace has brought into sharper focus the ordeals experienced by this country as a result of our own past as well as the drastic changes around us. It is also true that peace has supplanted outmoded calculations and slogans with vigorous, new ones.

Lebanon has played a remarkable role since the 1950's and up to its years of ordeal due to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Now, we have to prove once again that our country will thrive amid the radical changes in the region.

It may be our destiny to face dizzying challenges at home and abroad, but our people, armed with a new strength, will find their niche.

Our march has accomplished many positive things. During this year, the Chamber of Deputies worked as one body—thankfully so—to perform its legislative and supervisory role. Activities regarding the return of the displaced people have advanced in such a way that the displaced person now feels secure about returning in response to the state's decision. Operations to strengthen security, collect arms, and combat drug cultivation and smuggling have been strengthened. We have succeeded in raising the growth rate, decreasing the burdens of inflation, approving administrative appointments, and rectifying the reconstruction and reform workshops in the capital in particular, as well as the rest of the provinces. Recently, the nationality decree was issued.

In a very short period of time, the state has managed to become everyone's center of attention. It has fostered social security and public health. It has entrenched the independence of the judicial system. It has restored confidence in our country, commanding the respect of all sides for its interests and rights.

We have achieved many positive things, but the needs and requirements are greater. Those who believe in their homeland also know that our realizing these accomplishments under such critical and difficult circumstances and with limited resources shows the unlimited source of confidence in this homeland, which cannot be restricted. It is our duty to close ranks, both supporters and opposers, to make further progress with the existing achievements, continuing to triumph for the homeland. We want to use our determination to succeed to deal with the stacked up requirements. Attempts to divert our attention from managing our state will not succeed. Lebanon does not need anyone to pull it backwards. We are looking for people who can march forward and overcome obstacles.

Dear Lebanese, the noblest responsibility is true loyalty. What we are suffering from today is not merely an economic crisis in the sense of unemployment, inflation, and deficits, educational or moral regression, and administrative ineptness, although these phenomena are putting pressure on us. What we are suffering from is our attempt to apply a system that is no longer capable of managing the future, while we need to adopt a new system, whose characteristics and methods are not all finalized yet.

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Lebanon cannot only be built with figures, machines, university certificates, hotels, and convoys of tourists; it also needs dynamic solidarity. How can the Lebanese reconstruct in this region so full of contradictions if they do not first succeed in building up their own cohesion and confidence in safeguarding their statehood and the value of their role in the future?

A strong government provides strength for all its citizens and a fair state ensures justice for everyone. The state, with all its establishments, provides solutions. War means more than guns and peace means more than stopping the gunfire. We will not return to what we were before, but will prepare for the best. Lebanon has changed and the world around us has changed more. There are many problems in Lebanon and elsewhere.

There is a stalemate in economic growth in numerous countries; and severe financial upheavals and unemployment are sweeping Europe and Japan. Africa is deep in despair. Disturbances, crime, drugs, diseases, and social crises are rife in modern societies. These maladies and wars are clear despite technological progress. We are not saying this to deplore these realities or justify our situation, but to point out that the structures of a passing age are collapsing and that new structures are needed. We say this in order to free our potential to cope with the age. What is required is more than laissez faire and reconstruction. What is required is a new start.

We are working so that the people will be secure in their own state. Medicare must not be correlated with the existing economic system. Approving a medicare system should not be based on political reconciliation but on a socioeconomic factors. The establishment of an education system requires a comprehensive reconsideration so as to cope with the future. Education is one of the pillars of revival and reconstruction. It should enlighten the students, combat illiteracy and ignorance, and prepare patriots and experts to meet the needs of the market and the requirements of production.

Although we take pride in the batches of graduates, we will not rest until efforts are concerted to build an educational future that is in line with the requirements of national revival and which projects Lebanon's role in the region and the world. The youths are one of the priorities of the state's concerns. In addition to national service, the Army will establish youth camps to cement national cohesion. The Social Affairs Ministry will establish youth volunteers camps. The state must reward the youths' success in their education and work by creating jobs to help them succeed in Lebanon and for Lebanon.

The young are not interested in reliving our lives, but in starting their own. Our society requires balance among social classes, interaction among production sectors, exchanges of talent, and a clear vision of the future.

It is time to stop bemoaning our hardships. Officials, parties, syndicates, universities, and intellectuals should look ahead. We cannot keep looking down at our feet. As the Arab highway is being constructed, as our ports open up again, as our country braces to restore its function as a regional and international transit point, we seek to lay the foundations of a country where laws are paramount over officials. We have many politicians; we need statesmen.

The establishment of national peace is through democracy; and we are almost there. Those who criticize the current democratic practices are actually hearkening back to old, less democratic times. Those who claim that our democracy is perfect are unfairly patting themselves on the back. Democracy is a living thing, a changing organism. Democracy is a cause for pride; it is not a substitute for development. Those who lament the lack of freedoms should not set us upon a course of regression.

For me, there is no sense in having power if freedoms are compromised. Nor is there any sense in opposition if its sole rationale is posturing about freedoms. Let everyone be assured, freedom is well and thriving. [applause] But, since you have the right to speak, you have to speak what is right.

The years of war taught us that neither the democracy of participation [dimuqratiyat al-musharakah] nor the democracy of consultation [dimuqratiyat al-tashawur] are sufficient. The democracy of work and progress [dimuqratiyat al-'amal wa al- intilaq] is the solution, until transition to a secular society [al-mujtama' al-madani] is made.

Is our greatest fear in this fast-changing world that of preserving our Christianity or Islam? Our Christianity and Islam are best served when all of us strive to keep our country together. [applause]

Independence, my friends, does not mean independence for sects. Nor does it mean independence from the homeland or from our brothers. It cannot mean that in an age of coexistence. Coexistence is the hallmark of economic life. Accommodation is the principle of regional and international relations. Free trade breathes side by side with economic and regional trade zones. Cultural coexistence elevates ethnic diversity into a global phenomenon. There is a need for national and international coexistence.

Independence means freedom for all of us from isolationism and emotionalism. Independence throbs in the veins of peasants, palpitates in the hearts of workers, thrives in the fairness of the judiciary, soars in acts of creativity, shines in the generous soul of patriotism, and abides in the sacrifice of our Army and other loyal security services.

O Lebanese: We are headed for a decisive stage in the negotiations relating to peace in our region. As we have succeeded by our unity in remaining steadfast and confronting, so by our unity will we win the battle to recovering our sovereignty over our territory. You may

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notice that the more we cement our cohesion for restoring our land in the south and the western al-Biqa', the greater the campaigns against the state and the oppressive actions in the south against our kinfolk and their livelihood.

In the past they criticized us for joining the peace talks and sitting at the negotiating table. Today, they blame us for being far from the negotiations. O Lebanese: We will not go to the negotiating table to negotiate secretly somewhere else. We will not be delay in going to the negotiating table just so we can appear in the news media. We have declared our stance. Our position is clear and firm: We are for a fair and comprehensive peace; we want the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. We act an the basis of international legitimacy, conscience, the rule of law, and a legitimate loyalty to history, heritage, and future. Every honest Lebanese who wants to recover the south and western al-Biqa' is loyal to this peace and will not agree to lay traps on the road to peace.

Our influence in the negotiations stem from our unity, our resistance to occupation, and from coordination with fraternal Syria. Regarding our national unity, let them rest assured: If the master doubters all combined their efforts, they would not shake the certainty of a single free citizen.

As for our resistance of the occupation, it is legitimate until the occupation is over. Let Israel declare its withdrawal or set a timetable for withdrawal from our territory; the state will then pledge to insure security in the south. We will take care of our security, and Israel must not destroy our land on the pretext of protecting the security of its occupation of our land. Israel has no right to falsely accuse us of actions that are totally out of our control. These false accusations are in themselves an act of aggression.

How long will they continue to insist on considering our country a hostage until all the knots have been untied and solutions found? When they [not further identified], sign an agreement, we are exposed to acts of aggression. Before, during, and after signing an agreement, they claim that Lebanon is responsible for any explosion anywhere in the world. Enough is enough, they should stop blaming us for things that are not of our making and which are foreign to our heritage. We have suffered from violence and tragedies for 16 years, and so we are the first to reject violence. The road to peace does not stipulate that the occupier's security is more important than that of the party that clings to its rights and sovereignty. We are not an obstacle to a fair and comprehensive peace and should not be punished for that.

Regarding coordination with fraternal Syria, this is our own option and decision. They who supported Lebanon in its march toward salvation and liberation are most worthy to side by side safeguard Arab dignity. I have shaken hands with my brother President Hafiz al-Asad regarding a fair and comprehensive peace. A sovereign Lebanon is a buttress for Syria, and an able Syria is a support for Lebanon. We cooperate on this path. There will be no peace in the Middle East without Lebanon and Syria, even if they were to collect everyone's signatures. Don't occupy yourselves with useless thoughts. Let us work hard to crystallize our role in this new stage.

O servicemen, I am the supreme commander of the Armed Forces. I consider Army Day a day of commemoration for all Lebanon. The state and the people are aware that on behalf of all Lebanese and for all Lebanese you have carried the burden of honor, sacrifice, and loyalty. It remains to be proven that, just as it is an honor to die for Lebanese unity, living under this unity is the best kind of life. I wish you long life. Long live Lebanon. [applause]

Defense Minister Hits Donors' Aid 'Conditions'

NC0108071394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has stressed that the industrial nations' conditions for aid to Lebanon constitutes a plan for a new civil war. He disclosed that these conditions can be summed up in a call to strike at the Resistance and participate in the multilateral talks. He reiterated Lebanon's refusal to take part in the multilateral talks or normalize ties with the Zionist enemy who occupies our land.

Information Minister Congratulates Private Media

NC2907162294 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah to Voice of Lebanon on 29 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] First, I congratulate the Lebanese constitutional institutions on everything that is happening and that will happen, which falls within the framework of the legal application of laws promulgated by the Chamber of Deputies. The government supervises the preparation of the law or follows up on its application. It might also only follow up on the application of the law after it has been published.

After the president of the republic this morning signed the bill restoring newscasts to private radios and televisions in Lebanon until such time as the audio and visual media law is issued within the framework of the national principles and restrictions stipulated by the new law, I congratulate the Lebanese and their media over their well-being confirmed by the Chamber of Deputies and the president. A basic part of this well-being comes as a result of concerted efforts and activities by the government in cooperation with the media and relies on the maturity of Lebanese public opinion.

The restoration of the media today is confirmation and evidence that Lebanese media has demonstrated a sense

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of responsibility within the framework of its audio, visual, and written activities.

Private Media Form Self-Censorship Committee

NC2907171494 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] The Audiovisual Media Follow-up Committee has affirmed that it will abide completely with the Chamber of Deputies' bill [permitting temporary resumption of political broadcasts on private radios and television stations] and constant national principles. It also formed a self-censorship committee.

The committee, which met at the Voice of Lebanon building today, hailed the president for signing and publishing the bill.

It extolled the Chamber of Deputies' constitutional and democratic action, which sought to preserve public liberties.

The committee's statement announced that it will mark today as a day of liberty and democracy. It affirmed that the audiovisual media will remain committed to the constant national and pan-Arab principles that stress domestic peace and national unity.

The newly formed self-censorship committee will ensure full adherence to the new law and its attendant regulations and will coordinate with the official regulating body, which is the Information Ministry.

The committee concluded its statement by thanking all those who have helped to defend liberty and democracy.

Maronite, Phalangist Heads Welcome Media's Return

NC2907171894 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr expressed his satisfaction with the media's resumption of its tasks. Sfayr told his visitors that Lebanon cannot live without freedom because it is part of its social fabric.

Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah said that the return of newscasts to our media is a return to political life. He praised the media for their commitment to national principles and political boundaries.

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Lebanese Prime Minister Confers With Khaddam

NC3107064794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri held consultations with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and ranking officials in Damascus yesterday evening. The three-hour meeting dealt with the latest developments on the Lebanese and Arab levels as well as the developments in the peace process.

In a statement prior to his departure from Damascus, Prime Minister al-Hariri reiterated that the Lebanese and Syrian tracks in the peace process are congruent. He said that Damascus and Beirut are forging ahead with this process and will continue to do so until the establishment of the desired peace, which will restore our land, in accordance with the UN resolutions.

Continuing, the prime minister said that all matters should be discussed after Israel's withdrawal from the land and not before that. He said that Israel's attempts to place the Arab cart in front of the horse will not succeed. Al-Hariri affirmed that the Lebanese Government continues to implement its security and development programs, noting that the current stage requires the cohesion and unity of all the Lebanese in confronting the challenges on all fronts.

It should be recalled that Prime Minister al-Hariri made a stopover in Damascus on his way back from Saudi Arabia, where he held talks with Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. The talks dealt with the relations between the two countries and the developments in the Middle East peace process.

Israeli Plans Make Talks 'Difficult To Resume'

JN3107152994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: If the indications that Israel is planning a multi-level aggression bring to mind the practices Israel pursued after signing other separate peace agreements, then the picture and the methods of such an aggression will be apparent in light of previous attacks Israel launched after signing these agreements.

We want to recall the past and ask: Did the Israeli aggressions produce anything but disappointment and defeat, even though this was masked by their ability to reach everywhere, imposing what they wished thanks to the total destruction they wrought? What does Israel want from the huge military, media, and diplomatic preparations for an aggression on southern Lebanon, apart from involving the soundest track of the peace process in complex circumstances under which it will be difficult to resume the talks designed to achieve a comprehensive and just peace—a peace Israel does not want? Does aggression seek any other objective apart from complicating the circumstances and damaging sound approaches in a region that is about to lose what is sound, and where false things are about to become the truth. These false things are naively defended by those involved, as if Arab awareness of the conflict has vanished with the passage of time, as if it was killed by these agreements.

The wide and ongoing Israeli preparations for an aggression on southern Lebanon once again confirm a reality Syria has long emphasized: such agreements, deals, and formulas to end the Arab-Israeli conflict will not terminate this conflict. Instead, they will escalate it, and will pose an imminent danger to the future. It will then be difficult to address the repercussions and results of such danger, even by doubling the current international efforts designed to end the conflict, as if this conflict is an obsolete novel.

Logical, successful, impressive solutions with definite results and long-term effects are based on established facts and on what was unanimously accepted by the world's peoples, leaders, and states. These solutions, however, cannot be sound unless there is commitment to the stipulations of the UN resolutions. These resolutions condemned the logic of force and aggression and rejected any results on the ground due to aggression, including the aggression Israel is planning.

Thus, the current peace opportun ty, waiting for Warren Christopher to activate it in the next round, is now subjected to threats and aggression. Consequently, the U.S. Administration and the international community should now be aware of the serious thing Israel is preparing for. They should also assume their responsibility in order to forestall the aggression and compel the rebellious party to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy as a prelude to a real peace acceptable to peoples and defended by them.

Military adventures will not achieve their objectives despite the destruction they will cause. The Arabs, led by Syria and Lebanon, will remain a solid wall on which a just peace can be founded today and in the future.

Al-Asad Addresses Troops on Army Day

JN0108065394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Address by President Hafiz al-Asad to Army personnel on the 49th anniversary of the establishment of the Syrian Army, published in the JAYSH AL-SHA'B and the AL-JUNDI AL- 'ARABI magazines; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] My brothers and sons in our Armed Forces; valiant officers, NCO's, and troops: When I address you on this happy occasion, I appeal to your sense of loyalty, courage, and valor; and when I salute you, I salute your inborn love of the homeland, hard work, and belief in the

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higher values of our history, immortal heritage, and commitment to the principles of our people and nation.

While our Army is about to complete half a century of jihad and struggle in defense of the homeland's soil, resisting aggression, and coming to the rescue of brothers, it gives me great pleasure to extend to all of you, at all your posts—on land, in the air, and at sea—my warmest greetings, deepest love, and sincerest heartfelt congratulations on the 49th anniversary of the establishment of the Syrian Arab Army. It also gives me great pleasure to express my gratitude for the achievements you have made last year, including your national and pan-Arab missions, your accomplishments in the field of training and preparedness, as well as the battles you have fought and the new experience you have gained.

There have been significant developments over the past years in our region and the world as a whole. We have influenced, and have been influenced by, these developments. Some of these developments have had an adverse effect on pan-Arab action. However, Syria has held its ground and preserved its pan-Arab principles and purity. In fact, Syria has made great progress in national development and in the defense of Arab nation's causes.

The Syrian Arab Army has played an important role in bolstering Syria's position and ceaseless efforts to achieve the hopes and goals of the Arab masses. Since its establishment, the Syrian Arab Army has recorded, in the annals of Syria's modern history, heroic feats and manly and dignified stands. These stands stem from a genuine pan-Arab spirit. Over the past 49 years, the Syrian Arab Army has been an example in performing national and pan-Arab duty. It has a record full of bright marks that decorate its rich march—through its sacrifices, the blood of its martyrs, officers, NCO's, and troops, and the honorable performance of its missions. This march shall continue, thanks to your resolve to keep up its momentum and thanks to our people's determination to continue to support our Army with manpower and supply it with the weaponry and hardware it requires, and as long as we all continue to enhance our national unity—a solid foundation for our steadfastness, progress, and the achievement of our objectives.

Our valiant Army will continue to receive the support it deserves from the command and the people and what it needs to carry out the tasks it shoulders in the present situation and circumstances and to confront Israel's insistence on continuing to obtain the most modern military equipment and hardware that the world's war industries can supply, not to mention its firm insistence on achieving military superiority over all the Arabs. It is our right and duty to provide our homeland with the means to defend it.

Thanks to our lofty people and valiant Army, Syria will remain a steadfast bastion. Our steadfastness is the homeland's protective shield and the means to forge peace that returns rights to their owners. The one who can defend his country in the battlefield can also defend it in the peace field, achieve a just and comprehensive peace, and spread it in the homeland and around it—a peace that cancels occupation and brings justice and dignity. It is the peace we have always spoken about in a loud voice during and after the October war, and which we continue to call for. Peace should be lasting and viable. To be so, it should be based on the meanings and the requisites I have mentioned.

Brothers and sons, I do not want to speak today about the position of the Arab sides in the peace process. However, I very briefly say that we have done our utmost to preserve coordination among the Arab parties involved in the peace process and preserve the effectiveness of the unity of the Arab ranks in general. Some have departed from coordination and unity of rank. They will be held accountable by their people and all the Arab masses. When we say that each person is responsible for his actions, we will then be saying the right thing.

On this occasion, I greet our brothers in Lebanon—people, president, chamber of deputies, and government. I praise their sincere stand and emphasize that we neither induced nor fabricated our brotherhood. It has been a reality since time immemorial, and is embedded in our hearts, in the blood that runs in our veins, in our partnership throughout history and in our common hopes.

I also greet our steadfast people on the Golan and the other Arab forces which stand fast in the face of occupation on any spot where there is Israeli occupation.

Our everlasting promise to our righteous martyrs, the most noble people on this earth, is that we will pursue the march of jihad that they illuminated with their blood, and we will proceed in their footsteps along the course of martyrdom whose scope is dictated by the needs of the homeland and nation.

My warmest greetings, once again, to you, O heroes and to your families, your fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters. A homeland whose sons offer themselves in sacrifice for it is never humiliated. You are the vanguard of your people who are ready to offer sacrifices for the sake of your homeland and to defend with your life its territory, water, and air space.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Lieutenant General Hafiz al-Asad, president of the republic and commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces

Army Chief Emphasizes No 'Sell Out' of Territory

JN3107182094 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] In a statement to the newspaper AL-BA'TH today, Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of the general staff of the Army and Armed Forces, hailed Syrian Army Day. He emphasized that Syria will not sell out an

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iota of its national soil, and that Syria's work for a just and comprehensive peace emanates from a real position of strength.

Lt. Gen. al-Shihabi lauded the status our forces have attained by virtue of President Hafiz al-Asad's directives. He said: Our valiant Army embodies the nation's will to build its intrinsic strength and to rely on its sons in defending its fate.

He stressed that our Armed Forces are rallying around President Hafiz al-Asad's historic leadership in order to carry out national and pan-Arab tasks. Our Armed Forces insist on doubling their efforts, training, and preparedness, so they will continue to be a firm shield against the threats and conspiracies targeting our Arab nation, he added.

Daily Says Israel Must Break 'Logjam' in Talks

JN0108084894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 1 Aug 94

[From the press review]

[text] TISHRIN refutes Israeli allegations that Syria does not want peace and that Syria has not provided evidence that it wants to establish peace in the region.

The paper adds: While marketing their allegations and deceit regarding Syria's position and role in the peace process, the Israelis seek deliberately to cover up their obstacles and objectives by escaping the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN points out that the Israeli methods of maneuvering and deception can no longer fool anyone. Everybody is now aware that Israel is the party obstructing the peace process and trying to replace the foundations of this process—emphasized in the Madrid formula—by proposals that ensure the continuation of its occupation of Arab territories, using pretexts that annul the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The paper adds: When Israel avoids talking about withdrawal and calls for normalization, opening bridges, and ending the Arab boycott, it is bypassing the foundations and requirements of the peace process. This is because the peace process was originally based on the land-for-peace principle. In addition, the resolutions of international legitimacy stipulate full Israeli withdrawal, the return of the Israeli occupation troops to the 4 June 1967 lines, and the withdrawal of these troops from southern Lebanon, so as to reach a just and comprehensive solution and a lasting, successful peace in the region.

Had Israel been serious about making peace, as it claims, it would have, since the first round of the Washington talks, declared its commitment and willingness to withdraw from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the rest of the occupied Arab territories and fully responded to the requirements of the peace process.

The paper concludes: To break the logjam in the peace process, Israel must stop its allegations and stop blaming others, especially Syria, for the faltering steps of the peace process. Israel must also abandon its illusions and obstructive, intransigent policy, because the way to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace is by ending occupation. This is what Israel should do before everything else.

Press Views Israeli Actions, Peace Process

JN3007085294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 30 Jul 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "He Who Seeks Peace Does Not Go for War," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH today editorializes on Israeli threats, as well as the Israeli preparations currently under way in southern Lebanon, warning of a fresh aggression against fraternal Lebanon under various flimsy pretexts and excuses.

The paper adds: Had it been seeking true peace, Israel would not have felt the need for aggression. For whoever seeks peace does not engage in serious acts of belligerency. While addressing current developments, one finds this argument quite sensible.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: Any solution that is not grounded in international legitimacy, and that does not produce just and comprehensive peace is bound to exacerbate the conflict. Such a solution will not help achieve peace.

AL-THAWRAH believes that the imminent aggression against Lebanon also seeks to make Lebanon succumb, because Lebanon is opposed to any peaceful settlement that does not realize the minimum national aspirations and safeguard pan-Arab dignity.

AL-THAWRAH wonders whether Israel has removed from service a single rifle from its military arsenal, has decided to slash by a single aircraft the aircraft deal it has concluded with the United States, dismantled a single missile, or halted its famous nuclear program. The paper also wonders whether Israel altered, even slightly, the map of Greater Israel hanging in the Knesset.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying that all the breakthroughs achieved cannot achieve peace. Likewise, all aggressions cannot force peace. President al-Asad has stated that peace is peace, and that it is not liable to differing interpretations or philosophies, particularly since it is carefully defined in the relevant UN resolutions and the pledges made by the U.S. Administration, particularly President Clinton. Whoever seeks peace does not move toward war and aggression.

Under the headline "Complete Withdrawal is the Key to Just and Comprehensive Peace," the newspaper

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TISHRIN comments on the verbal gimmicks used by the Israelis in their handling of the Middle East peace process.

TISHRIN adds: The arguments and excuses Israel has advanced to evade the requirements of peace have become the hallmark of the Israeli policy. The Israelis are attempting to promote the peace-for-peace formula instead of the land-for-peace formula. Undoubtedly, a positive outcome of the peace process is contingent upon an Israeli willingness to meet the requirements of the peace process. It is contingent upon an Israeli readiness to effect complete withdrawal from the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the remaining occupied Arab territories. This is because the dismantlement of occupation is the goal and objective of the peace process.

TISHRIN goes on to say: While persisting with its policy, which is opposed to withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and which has failed to articulate a commitment to withdrawal to the pre-June 4, 1967 borders, Israel shows that it is still opposed to just and comprehensive peace, and that it seeks to obtain the dividends of peace without giving anything in return, although the territories Israel has been holding on to are Arab territories. But, regardless of how long the occupation lasts, it cannot change facts, or geographic and historical realities. Occupation does not give occupiers and aggressors the right to tamper with the present and future of these territories, nor does it give them, for that matter, the right to undermine the destiny of their owners, be they Syrians, Lebanese, or Palestinians.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: While reiterating that occupation is at the heart of the conflict, Syria believes that a positive handling of the peace process requires Israel to dismantle its occupation and effect complete withdrawal in order to achieve just and comprehensive peace.

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Afghanistan

Rabbani Addresses Hazrat Hamza Division

LD3107204694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Address by President Borhanoddin Rabbani to officers of the Hazrat Hamza Division in Herat, date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Dear brother al-Haj Alauddin Khan, commander of the Master of Martyrs, Hazrat Hamzah Division, [words indistinct] [passage omitted]

If yesterday Afghanistan was situated as a buffer between the capitalist West and [words indistinct], nowadays Afghanistan has come out of that geographical-political position and become a passage of interests for different countries—small and large countries, far and near countries—and they have to pass through this passage to achieve their economic and political benefits; [words indistinct] for this reason if we lacked a stable state and a powerful and modern regime, surely [words indistinct] will create problems for our country. [Words indistinct] we need a powerful army, a regular army, in order to be able to defend our culture [words indistinct] that our nation has achieved with its blood. This is a time's requirement. On the other hand, having an army is an Islamic duty in every Islamic society and in every [word indistinct] state. [passage omitted]

I am confident that our Islamic army will have the following characters: Characters of [words indistinct] perseverance, patience, and fortitude, and full combat skill. Combat experience is not only a military skill but also a religious duty. If one misses it, one commits a sin. The Prophet, peace be upon him, said that if one learned archery and became expert, and then if one gave it up or forgot it, one committed a sin. We see that usually different posts are awarded in the armies, different levels—in order for new experiences to be learned. From the Islamic viewpoint, a soldier should always repeat experience in the course of his life—pass different levels of experience. That with passage of every day he learns a new experience—to acquire new learning. It should not be the case for them to learn a military skill in a certain level very well, and then forget it. But they should persistently learn new [word indistinct] and acquire new learning. [passage indistinct] So far as possible, they are able—a Muslim soldier should know about new learning, new combat experiences, new combat arts, and new weapons. This is verified by the Koran. [Words indistinct] A faithful has [word indistinct], has a regular army, has an armed army in order for the enemy to be afraid. The army of a faithful [mo'men] should not be just for show [words indistinct]. I am confident that our faithful brothers, our heroic commanders, our dear officers, have a great responsibility to defend Islam, the revolution, the independent and Islamic Afghanistan. We cannot achieve any thing without having a powerful army and [word indistinct] army. Still, there are many enemies in our country [sentence as heard].

If international Communism has disappeared, local and regional Communism still exists. If at world level Communist colonialism has disappeared, new colonial faces and territories have appeared in the region and in the world.

We need a powerful and a crushing army to prevent any colonial power. I am confident that with the blessing of God and as a result of dear brothers' efforts, the powerful cell of setting up our Islamic and crushing army has been started and is going through its evolutionary and growth stage [applause]. My advice to my dear brother is—though we have many problems, though, I know, living standards and the economic situation are not good, you discharge your duties manly, bravely, with sincerity and faith, and your achievement is, with the grace of God, a great achievement. We are confident that, God willing, our country's problems are disappearing. Our internal enemies, God willing—all enemies will be eliminated as a result of the efforts of the true and faithful sons, you our dear brothers, and [word indistinct] will be resolved. God willing we will be able to resolve our problems in all aspects of life. Once again I mention all of you with gratitude and express appreciation for the fruitful efforts of my dear brother Alauddin, who have made them in cooperation of you dear brother in various dimensions of the reconstruction of our Islamic army. I ask from God for you brothers and other true sons of the country great reward and success. These words spoken I ask from God forgiveness for you and myself. [applause]

Herat Shura Approves Military Commission Plan

LD2907224694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] [Announcer, in Dari] Dear listeners of Radio Afghanistan: As you know, the supreme Islamic shura of Herat was convened on 26 June 1994 to end the fighting and restore nationwide peace in our beloved country. You, dear listeners of radio Afghanistan, have heard parts of the reportage on the supreme Islamic shura broadcast by Radio Afghanistan. May we draw your attention to a plan prepared by the military commission of the supreme Islamic shura:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified session chairman] Now we ask esteemed Lieutenant General Alhaj Alaoddin Khan, general commander of the southwestern zone, to present his approved plan to the session.

[Alaoddin Khan, in Dari] Esteemed Mr. Chairman and members of the Shura: We need to have a sound army [words indistinct] with a sound patriotic mind devoted to the territorial integrity and independence of Afghanistan. Of course a (?reactionary) army cannot do anything and cannot serve the homeland, the revolution, and the gains of the revolution.

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If we look at our army in the past, they did not discharge the main duty allotted to them. In order to safeguard the presidency, the commanders of the time did not pay any attention to the nation's honor and pride. Whenever a coup was organized or an illegal action took place, the army commanders of the time hoisted first the flag of surrender, without analysis and determination of all facts and without consideration of the country's high interests. Such an army can never serve the country or the people.

You have seen that at the forefront was the unsound army of the time and the notorious militias who committed atrocities against our nation. They have shed the blood of Muslims and eventually destroyed our country. [words indistinct] The 100,000-man army that is going to be formed must be totally faithful to Islam, to the Islamic revolution, to territorial integrity and to safeguarding the honor and pride of the (?nation), who also have special Islamic discipline. With such a sound army we can defend the gains of our Islamic revolution and our territorial integrity.

The following are the articles I am going to read them:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate: The Resolution of the Military Commission of the Herat Shura dated 24 July 1994:

The military commission was set up on the basis of the supreme Islamic session of Afghanistan's provinces, held in Herat and chaired by General Mohammad Ismail, general amir of the southwestern zone. The commission has been holding various sessions in which the members discussed issues relevant to the solution of the country's problems in order to bring about peace, calm, and security and to clear the country of the filth of agitator and adventurist elements, to open the country's highways, and to create a sound link between the capital and the country's provinces. The commission has made the following unanimous decisions:

1. An Islamic 100,000-man army is to be formed, within the framework of the Islamic Army of the Islamic State and consisting of the country's mojahedin, with the special duty of restoring a nationwide peace and security.

2. The Islamic Army shall be organized in five zones and will be attached to the country's five army corps consisting of the central, south, southwestern, north, and northeastern zones.

3. The 100,000-man army will have the following duties:
a. To open the communication and supply roads, in particular the highways linking the capital with provinces and to maintain the security of these roads;
b. To clear the roads and the country's regions of the adventurist and agitator elements as well as the defamed militias, rebels, and irresponsible groups [words indistinct]
c. The Islamic Army, consisting of the mojahedin from the various jihadi formations, guild, strata, and various nationalities of the country, will have special military discipline and wear military uniforms. The Islamic Army will be equipped with military education and training. The Islamic Army, together with the National Islamic Army of the country [as heard], will have the special duty to safeguard independence, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty.
d. The units of the 100,000-man army will start work one week after the concluding session of the supreme Islamic shura of the Afghanistan's provinces.
e. The 100,000-man army which will be set up voluntarily on the basis of a specified quota by the competent provincial delegates and the jihadi commanders, will be in the following manner:

The central zone will have 16,000 men in total: 4,000 men for Kabul Province; 6,000 men for Kapisa and Parwan Provinces; 2,500 men for Laghman Province; 2,500 for Konar Province; and 1,000 men for Nuristan Province.

The northern zone will have 9,500 men in total: 3,000 men for Balkh Province; 2,000 men for Samangan Province; 2,000 men for Jowzjan Province; and 2,500 for Fariab Province.

The northeastern zone will have 10,500 in total: 2,500 men for Baghlan Province; 3,000 men for Konduz Province; 2,500 men for Takhar Province; and 2,500 men for Badakhshan Province.

The southwestern zone will have 20,000 men in total: 5,000 men for Herat Province; 2,000 men for Badghis Province; 1,500 men for Ghowr Province; 2,000 men for Farah Province; 1,500 men for Nimroz Province; 2,000 men for Helmand Province; amd 6,000 men for Kandahar Province.

The southern zone will have 10,000 men in total: 1,500 men for Logar Province; 1,200 for Paktia Province; 1,200 men for Paktika Province; 1,200 for Khost Province; and (?2,500) men for Ghazni Province; 1,200 men for Zabol Province, and 1,200 men for Wardak Province. [end recording]

BBC Reporter Said Killed by Hekmatyar Forces

LD3007184994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Mirwais Jalil, a colleague of Radio BBC in Kabul, was [word indistinct] by Golboddin's militia in Chelsoton. [words indistinct] he was killed when he was returning from Charasiab to Kabul in the company of an Italian journalist after conducting an interview with Golboddin. The Italian journalist, who was accompanying Jalil, says when they arrived in the area of Chelsoton on their way back from Charasiab: A car driving behind us pulled over in front of our car and ordered us to halt. Then armed men got out and took Mirwais Jalil with them.

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Mr. [name indistinct] says that having conducted his interview with Hekmatyar, Jalil told me that Hekmatyar persistently told him during the course of the interview that the BBC did not publish the truth and that (?in return he received a bribe from Ahmad Shah Masud). He added: When Jalil was evicted by force from the car, he told me that (?I killed him), and the armed men ordered us to move while they dragged him to their car. An eyewitness says that Golboddin's men took Jalil inside the Chelsoton Garden. A few moments later they left the area in their car [words indistinct]

When Jalil's body was [words indistinct], and it shows that Jalil was beaten up before being killed and was tortured.

Security sources are of the opinion that Golboddin's commanders congratulated one another on the wireless for the killing of Jalil, and Golboddin expressed pleasure at the execution of this act. Jalil was an experienced journalist of the country, who worked as an assistant to the BBC correspondent in Kabul. [words indistinct] Golboddin was expecting him to prepare his report incorrectly in the interest of Golboddin's party and to wire them abroad [words indistinct]. Because Jalil did not gave in to Golboddin's personal demands, however, he was ruthlessly killed by Hekmatyar's professional terrorists.

The press center of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs and Afghanistan's Union of Journalists have expressed regret and sorrow at the martyrdom of Jalil. [passage indistinct]

Hekmatyar Attack Repulsed in East Kabul

LD3107160294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] An attack by the Golboddin-Dostam militia was crushed today in Kabul. The BAKHTAR agency reports to us that this morning the Golboddin-Dostam militia launched an attack in Dehe Khodaydad and the Bagrami Hills, where it was repulsed by the Islamic Army of Afghanistan. Over the past two to three days, the militia mounted unsuccessful attacks in the direction of (Darolaman). The report says that Mojahedin of Harakat-e Eslami captured (?many) positions of the militia. According to another report, General Mohammad Musa Khan Khaleqi from Maindan Province says that the militia attacked the positions of the Mojahedin in that province the day before yesterday. But as a result of the counterattack of the Mojahedin a number of the militia were killed and five others were taken prisoner. The Mojahedin captured as booty 13 Kalashnikovs and four rocket launchers.

Opposition Forces Defeated in Fariab Province

LD2907172394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] As a result of a successful operation by the mojahedin and forces of the Islamic Army, the area of Dasht, Gorjiwan district, Fariab province, was cleared yesterday of the Golboddin-Dostam militias.

According to reports obtained by the Bakhtar Information Agency, as a result of the successful operation carried out in this area with the cooperation of the Muslim inhabitants under the command of Abdol Karim Arshad, the Golboddin-Dostam militias have totally lost their positions in the Dasht area of Gorjiwan and were forced to flee after suffering heavy losses of life and materials.

As a result of this operation, 150 Kalashnikovs, four rocket launchers, two DShks, and ammunition for various weapons were seized by the mojahedin as booty.

According to another report, the Golboddin-Dostam militias launched a while ago an unsuccessful attack on the forces of the Islamic Army in Qala-e Sar area, Kohestanat district, Jowzjan province. This attack was foiled as a result of a satisfactory resistance put up by the mojahedin and the Islamic army. During the course of a counterattack, the mojahedin captured eight militiamen and killed another eight. The mojahedin seized twelve Kalashnikovs and two RPG rockets, with a large quantity of ammunition, were seized as booty.

Iran

Foreign Ministry Protests Christopher's Remarks

LD3007142294 Tehran IRNA in English 1344 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman here last night refuted the allegations of the United States secretary of state and of the British premier, and called the U.S. an "international outlaw" and a "supporter of the state terrorism of the Zionist regime."

Mahmud Mohammadi said: "Although, they (the U.S. and Britain) themselves know that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the main victim of terrorism and that in accordance with its very principled policies it opposes and condemns every kind of terrorist move, they repeatedly harp on their biased and unfounded allegations against the Islamic Republic of Iran".

Blasting the London and Washington administrations for turning a blind eye to the recent crime of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) at the holy shrine of Imam Reza on June 20, the spokesman expressed wonder over their self-contradictory stands.

He pointed out that despite their claim to be anti-terrorist they provide the terrorist MKO with bases on their soil.

The MKO bomb blast in Mashhad that shocked the civilized world on the day of 'Ashura (Muharram 10 [date in Muslim calendar of] the martyrdom anniversary

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of Imam Hoseyn), failed to move the stony conscience of world circles. It left 26 martyrs and 170 others injured.

Yesterday, in his speech before the Senate, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher made some irresponsible statements and tried to put the blame of the Buenos Aires and London bomb blasts on Iran and called on its Western allies to take serious measures against Tehran.

Mohammadi said Iran has repeatedly lent support to international cooperation for the campaign against terrorism, but strongly objects to double standards in this regards.

He said any condemnation of terrorism on the part of international circles should be free from double standards.

"The hegemonist and expansionist policy of the U.S. in various parts of the world and its support for the aggressions and state terrorism of the Zionist regime has made the U.S. the source of state terrorism, an enemy of peace and an international outlaw," said Mohammadi.

The spokesman drew attention to Iran's in the region and at the international level especially in Afghanistan, Karabakh, Tajikistan and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and labelled London and Washington as "opponents of the international peace process" whose policies are based on interventionism in a bid to sell their arms. [as received]

On the recent agreement between Jordan's King Husayn and the Zionist premier he said Iran is of the view that any compromise with the illegitimate Zionist entity is fruitless, and thus rejects any compromise.

Official Attacks Christopher Terrorism Remarks

LD3907113794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] Our country's deputy foreign minister in charge of international affairs [Mohammad Javad Zarif] has said the U.S. secretary of state's undiplomatic statements have brought on his head the hatred of the proud nation of Iran.

Mr. Zarif, who was being interviewed by CNN news network through a satellite link, said: Through his impolite and undiplomatic remarks and by describing the great Iranian nation as rebellious [yaqhi], the U.S. secretary of state has fanned the flames of our nation's anger against America. He pointed out that the Iranian nations does not recall the slightest response from Mr. Christopher regarding the terrorist act in holy Mashhad or the imposition of any restrictions by him on the perpetrators of that disaster, who are freely active in America and are busy recruiting mercenaries and gathering financial support for their terrorist acts.

On the Islamic Republic of Iran's relations with the Lebanese Hizballah revolutionary movement, our country's deputy foreign minister in charge of international affairs said: Hizballah is an official Lebanese organization which is represented in that country's parliament and campaigns against the occupation of Lebanese territory, something which even the United Nations has also condemned in its resolutions. Iran supports the struggle by Hizballah and others to free their land from occupation by the Zionists.

He pointed out: It is the Israeli Army which is busy kidnapping, assassinating innocent individuals, carrying out blind bombardment of residential areas, and other terrorist acts in southern and other parts of Lebanon.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran is a victim of terrorism, and has sought serious international cooperation to fight terrorism regardless of the nationality of the victims or the perpetrators of any terrorist act.

Mr. Zarif added: We have offered proposals to the European Union presidency for a fundamental struggle with that phenomenon through international cooperation. The Islamic Republic of Iran has also been actively participating in other international forums, the Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic Conference to find methods of struggle against terrorism.

Majles Commission Condemns Christopher's Remarks

LD0108104894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] The Majles' Foreign Policy Commission issued a statement describing the recent remarks by the U.S. secretary of state about the great and proud nation of Iran as the clearest indication of his ignorance, rudeness, and crassness. The statement refers to the fact that the victory of the glorious Islamic Revolution and the momentum and drive that the Islamic movement has gained throughout the world have so angered the enemies of justice and humanity that they decided to attack the great cultural values of the world with impudence. The statement stresses that the dear Iranian nation and the Islamic ummah will continue the path of excellence and development regardless of such acts of hostility.

Media Reacts to Christopher's Remarks on Terrorism

Radio Reviews Press

LD3107160594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1240 GMT 31 Jul 94

[From the Press Review]

[Excerpts] After the publication of the statements made by the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, which accused Iran of supporting state terrorism, most of

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the morning and evening press have published various commentaries in response to those statements. It is noteworthy that last Friday night, the U.S. Secretary of State, in a blatant posturing, spoke about Iran's involvement in two explosion incidents in the Zionist headquarters in Argentina and London and brazenly called Iran a outlaw state. In this connection, the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, on page 15, has devoted its political commentary to this issue. In that we read:

Those who have been studying American foreign policy in the past 50 years, especially in the past decade and during the years after the end of the Cold War, know full well that the U.S. Government, because of its role in creating a great many of the world's political crises, and as the instigator of a great many imposed wars, assassinations, conspiracies, toppling of governments, and various atrocities, is more deserving of the word outlaw for its depiction and introduction. Americans' judgements and political posturings—just like their performance—have never been based on reason, logic, and law and in all cases their steps, writings, thoughts, and moves have not been the least rooted in law or logical reason. Only their endless and undefined interests are the criteria for their actions.

The daily HAMSHAHRI, also, in its Daily Note considers the injudicious statements by the U.S. Secretary of State to result from the concern by American statesmen over the weakening of the role of the United States in the capitalist camp after the Cold War and writes:

Washington is trying, by increasing political pressure—and even economic and military pressure—against the Islamic Republic of Iran, firstly, to reestablish its lost supremacy in third world public opinion, especially the Islamic states. Secondly; it wants to bring under its domination the only oil producing state which has remained outside the orbit of the White House satellites. Thirdly; it wants to show off a masterstroke to its outlaw allies, such as Germany, France, and Japan. In other words, the rabid capitalist faction is trying uselessly to prevent the inevitable historic decline and turn back the tide.

On the same subject, listen to an item which is published on the first page of JAHAN-E ESLAM:

For a long time, the U.S. Administration has been looking for pretexts, certain conditions, and situations at the international level in order to extricate itself from political cul-de-sacs in the world, and to give more impetus to its actions and to implement its plans.

Dear listeners. It must be added that a careful assessment has left no ambiguity that the American psychological onslaught—aimed at marring the Islamic Republic of Iran's political honor—only confirms the truth that the United States, as the main director of such poisonous propaganda, is always looking for an opportunity to weaken the role of Islamic Iran in influencing Muslim public opinion. [passage omitted]

It must be noted that the dailies ABRAR and ETTE-LA'AT have not dealt with the issue of rebelliousness and the U.S. accusations against Iran. [passage omitted]

On the second page of the daily ABRAR there is an article about the quality of drinking water in America, which says:

An expert environmental group in Washington announced: One out of every five Americans is deprived of hygienic, healthy, drinking water which is without bacteria and other pollutants. On the whole, 50 million American people are deprived of healthy drinking water.

A member of the council, a lawyer, has said: It is shameful that the people of a country which itself exports water purification equipment should be deprived of such equipment. [passage omitted]

Accusations Said 'Baseless'

LD3107124994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0958 GMT
31 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary: "Baseless U.S. Accusations Against Iran Due to its Periodic Madness"]

[Text] At the U.S. House of Representatives' Foreign Relations Committee, the U.S. secretary of state maligned Iran and called it a supporter of terrorism and an outlaw nation. Last year also, at about the same time, the U.S. secretary of state called Iran an international outlaw. In the last 18 months since the Democrats gained power in America, Warren Christopher has accused Iran on average once every three months of violating human rights, trying to get nuclear weapons, and supporting terrorist activities. He has blamed Iran for everything the United States should be blamed for.

Christopher was deputy U.S. secretary of state during the Carter presidency and at the time of the victory of the Islamic revolution. He is someone who suffers the pain of a 15-year-long humiliation. At the time of the fall of the shah, the victory and survival of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the failure of the attempted Nowzheh air base coup d'etat, and finally the imposed war [against Iraq], he and the Democrats were repeatedly humiliated, and the depth of those humiliations is such that the U.S. secretary of state feels compelled to revile the Iranian nation. During the imposed war, too, the U.S. War Secretary [as heard] Caspar Weinberger said the roots of the Iranian nation must be burned. Talking such balder-dash [yaveh] is in itself another defeat which besets a so-called superpower like America.

The Americans imposed an eight-year war on Iran in the belief that it would dash all hope in the hearts of the Iranian nation. Now, with the passage of time and after Iran has surmounted obstacle after obstacle and traversed the path of progress and reconstruction, they themselves have fallen victim to periodic madness.

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Since the era of the Democrats, the U.S. Administration has spent much effort on further tightening the noose of economic and technological embargoes against Iran. That policy, along with the posturing of support for the people of Iran under the slogan of human rights, has been designed to set the people against the government. Now, with the total defeat of that policy, the U.S. Administration has targeted the Iranian nation. If the charge that Iran is violating human rights means that the Iranian Government does not observe the human rights of the Iranian nation, then what is meant by statements calling for the roots of the Iranian nation to be burned or describing the Iranian nation as being an outlaw state?

The truth is that the human rights slogan and the charges of supporting terrorist activities are due simply to the facts that the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni—may almighty God be satisfied with him—defied the superpowers, and that at the moment the Iranian nation is still as strong as ever, thanks to the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution, and the wholehearted following he has from the people. The United States is intent on breaking that ethos and that independence, which is free from reliance on Washington.

Democrats Said 'Spewing Invective'

NC3107091494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 31 jul 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] Addressing the Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher maligned the Islamic Republic of Iran as a supporter of terrorism and an outlaw nation.

The despicable U.S. secretary of state, who tasted the humiliation of defeat at the hand of the Islamic Revolution during Carter's presidential term, has attributed to Iran something that really describes the United States. Earlier, the secretary of defense during the Reagan era, Caspar Weinberger, said that the roots of the Iranian nation should be scorched, but America's own roots were burned while the Iranian nation continues to forge ahead in a vital and dynamic manner.

The Democrats, who are spewing invective out of sheer fury and indignation, are merely displaying the extent of their impotence and abjectness. The U.S. Administration, which claims to be a world superpower and head of the new order, was extremely humiliated by the shah's downfall, the occupation of the den of spies, the failed efforts to stage a coup d'etat, and in the course of the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war. Afterward, despite the undeclared economic and technological embargoes, the United States has suffered repeated loss of prestige with every progressive economic step by Islamic Iran in the implementation of the development Plan. The United States imposed eight years of war on Iran in order to destroy all optimism in this country. In that war Iran defeated its enemies, and not only did it allow itself to become mired in despondency, but it emerged more hopeful. With reliance on the Almighty, it continues on its path to a free and vibrant Iran.

Prior to this, the United States had also tried to pit the Iranian Government and people against one another. All these ploys failed miserably. The U.S. secretary of state made amateurish attempts to hurl abuse at a nation that has ridiculed him, his party, and his version of human rights. If there were any doubts of the righteousness of our path in certain minds, the U.S. Government's stance regarding the Iranian nation has further exposed the criminal nature of the United States more than ever before.

U.S. malice toward Iran is malevolence toward the rights and righteousness of a nation, which—with empty hands, but with abundant faith in God Almighty—valiantly treads the difficult road to liberating itself from the fetters of tyranny and colonialism.

If any government is to be accused of being an outlaw, this title more appropriately fits the United States. The U.S. Administration is a bandit of humanitarianism and civilization, and its rebellious nature is not restricted to Iran. Every government and nation that rises up against the criminal U.S. policies becomes the target its vindictiveness.

U.S. Said 'International Outlaw'

LD3107115594 Tehran IRNA in English 1141 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—A morning daily Sunday [31 July] said that the recent irresponsible remarks made by the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in which Iran was labeled an outlaw would be better applied to the U.S. Administration and its hegemonic policies.

"JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" in its political commentary said that while Britain has not taken a stand towards those responsible for the recent bomb explosion at the Zionist interests in London and at the time when Argentina has explicitly rejected Iran's involvement in the Buenos Aires blast, Christopher impudently speaks of Iran's hand in the explosions and in a frantic move terms Iran an outlaw.

The paper noted that those who have studied the U.S. foreign policy in the last half a century, especially the past decade and the post Cold-War era know well that Washington deserves to be called an outlaw for being behind numerous political crises in the world, imposed wars, assassinations, conspiracies, toppling of governments and various other crimes.

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Washington's political justification has never been made on the basis of law and reasoning, said the paper adding that only the U.S. undefined and unrestrained interests set the criteria for their decision-making.

Giving a definition of the term international outlaw, the paper said that according to research conducted in the post-World War Two till 1991, Washington has been responsible for launching 83 percent military or political coup d'etats in the world and for triggering 78 percent civil wars or war between neighbors.

The U.S. has also been behind 69 percent of assassinations and political purges inside and outside the countries and the main agent for direct and indirect murder of 58 percent of people during political crises, said the commentary.

The reality is that those who have suffered from the unrestrained military and terrorist actions of the U.S. in their countries can define the term "political and military outlaw" better than others.

Therefore, said the paper, the question should be better asked from the defenceless people of Panama, the starving nation of Somalia, and the honorable people of Vietnam.

The article concluded by saying that the term international outlaw deserves a government that has launched a full-fledged political, cultural and military aggression throughout the world to expand its hegemony and has termed such a filthy aggression as the new world order.

U.S. Attitudes Criticized

LD3107200994 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA— The Persian daily KAYHAN said in a brief commentary Sunday [31 July] that Washginton, seeing the Iranians supporting their political system, is now showing its grudge against the Iranians at large and not solely the political system in Iran.

The paper said the statement last week by the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher about Iran is proof of the prevailing feelings about Iran in Washington.

The paper added that the U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was obviously voicing his true pesonal feelings last week when he referred to Iranians as "rebels".

The commentary said in essence:

But in saying so Christopher was also evidently venting the feelings of his cowboy friends within the administration that had long since watched the ruining of their great expectations in their dealings with Iran. Feelings of utter defeat and dismay.

Given the circumstances, what nicer words then could possibly have been uttered by him?

Those words obviously recalled an even more candid statement that was blabbed out by one-time Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger during the Iraq-Iran war. He was quoted during his tour of U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf at that time as saying that the Iranian nation had to be wiped out from the face of the earth.

Later the Americans tried to play down the statement, referring to it only as a casual remark with no serious intention or official implications, though subsequent developments betrayed all efforts at whitewashing that statement.

Iraq's behavior in its war with Iran, its systematic bombing of residential quarters in Iran that culminated in the rocketting by the U.S. Vincennes of an Iranian passenger plane above the Persian Gulf in a July morning in 1988 that was flying in its regular air corridor to Dubayy was conclusive proof that the American Government targeted the Iranians as a nation and that this feeling on their part was due to the religious faith of the people in this part of the world.

A lot more can obviously be said though little there is that is not common knowledge. This time, however, Washington is challenging the Iranian nation without wearing any of the scores of the masks that it previously put on for sending such challenges from the mouths of the characters that it chose for such performances.

Washington has already gone to every possible extreme for portraying the Islamic republic as a political system isolated from the people it rules and to wrongly portray it as a system missing every intimacy with its people.

The Iranians, making no secret of their heartfelt solidarity with their government, have only too frequently given it their free support in their million-strong demonstrations on occasions and have thereby demonstrated a feeling towards their government that is markedly the opposite of what Washington has suggested from the outset.

It was perhaps in a subconscious recognition of this same mass feelings in Iran that Christopher this time has singled out 'Iranians' and not the Islamic government that have to be wiped out from the earth.

KAYHAN concluded by pointing that the words blurted out this time by Christopher are also evidence of the truth of Imam Khomeyni's warnings that the American Government was "carrying a big, deep-seated grudge against Islam and the Islamic revolution."

Velayati Says West Opposes Islamic Role

LD2907111794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Text] The second stage of the nationwide seminar held for Iranian ambassadors and diplomats opened in Mashhad this morning.

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Referring to the rapid transformations in the world arena, particularly during the current year, and to conspiracies hatched by some Western powers to interfere in the affairs of Islamic and Third World countries and to deprive them of their sovereignty, Foreign Minister Velayati said at the opening ceremony of this seminar that some Western states are now striving harder than ever before to prevent the Islamic Republic of Iran from becoming an example to Islamic countries and the world of Islam.

Referring to the sensitivity and complexity of foreign policy and to the country's diplomatic gains during the past year, Mr. Velayati expressed the hope that the foreign policy programs planned for the coming year will follow the instructions of the esteemed leader and concentrate efforts to serve the interests of the country and the Islamic world.

U.S. Remarks on Bomb Attacks Said Contradictory

LD3007111494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] The U.S. State Department announced yesterday that there is as yet no documented evidence about the identity of the perpetrators of the explosions in Buenos Aires and London.

According to AFP, a U.S. State Department spokesman has pointed out that country's intelligence agents are actively participating in the investigations being carried out into the Buenos Aires explosion. According to the same report, Washington's recent stance contradicts earlier claims by the U.S. secretary of state. Previously, Warren Christopher said the Lebanese Hizballah was the perpetrator of those explosions and called on the West to take a stance against the Islamic Republic of Iran because of its support of the Lebanese Hizballah.

In addition, the Argentine foreign minister also said Buenos Aires is being put under pressure by some states to blame particular elements for the explosion at the Argentine-Israel Friendship Association.

Daily: U.S., Israel Kill To Discredit Islam

LD3107071094 Tehran IRNA in English 0639 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—A morning daily here Sunday [31 July] said that the U.S. and the Zionist entity, in order to discredit Muslim states who oppose Tel Aviv's recognition, will apparently go to any length and commit any heinous crime, including murdering their own citizens.

The "TEHRAN TIMES" in its editorial referred to the recent bombings against Israeli interests in Argentina and Britain and wrote that the U.S. and Israel as usual accused Islamic groups and the Islamic Republic of Iran of complicity in those terrorist acts.

The two countries "have been actively pursuing a policy of discrediting the Islamic Republic through negative campaigns and by pressuring other countries to issue anti-Iranian statements," said the article.

Both Tel Aviv and Washington have planned to weaken the international standing of Syria and Lebanon to force them to relinquish their national and religious interests and sign the U.S.-Israeli compromise accord, it added.

Moreover, the paper said, the U.S. and Israel have embarked on a propaganda campaign "aimed at portraying Iran and the regional Islamic movements as terrorists who are bent on destroying regional peace."

However, the article argued whether it was possible that a car laden with explosives [could] be parked in front of the Zionist embassy without raising the suspicion of the Israeli security personnel.

It concluded by saying that the U.S. and Israel will use all their means to achieve their goal of legitimizing the existence of the usurper regime.

Daily Derides Bombing Allegations

LD3107085294 Tehran IRNA in English 0828 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—The English daily "KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL" commented on the role of international media in the recent bombings in Buenos Aires and London and wrote that the international media has been busy speculating to see to what extent the recent bombings could be blamed on Iran without the benefit of supporting evidence.

Pointing to the recent allegations against Iran, the daily said in its editorial here Sunday [31 July] that the latest anti-Iran campaign would in all likelihood witness a wholly predictable and repetitive series of scathing, vituperative ineffective pronouncements.

"Before governments and opinion makers who should know better, begin to follow Messrs. Rabin and Peres' lead in their undisguised attempts to isolate and punish Iran for opposing the spread of Arab capitulation to the Zionist state (known by the euphemism "peace process"), they should read a bit of history in this respect," wrote the daily.

The editorial added that the "Lavon affair" scandal is a case in point which broke in mid-1954 when the Egyptian Government announced that an Israeli sabotage ring had been arrested which was responsible for bombing American, British and Egyptian installations in Egypt, with a view to derailing a possible Washington-London-Cairo rapprochement.

It further noted that what was worth noting and of relevance to the charges being levelled against Tehran

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today, was that the Lavon affair represented a milestone in the joint Israel-British-French invasion of Egypt's Suez Canal in the first week of November 1956.

Elsewhere, in its editorial the daily wrote: "Let us request something from the Argentine judge Juan Jose Galeano, who is shuttling back and forth to Caracas interviewing an Iranian national, Manuchehr Muatamer [name as received] reportedly claims to know the details both of the 1992 destruction of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires and the recent explosion there at the Jewish center from A-Z." [sentence as received] The judge should check the man's bank accounts, the paper wrote and added that any large infusions of cash recently received by him will prove to be more telling evidence than what he purports to know about events in Buenos Aires.

'Zionists' Blamed for Buenos Aires Blast

NC0108072894 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 21 Jul 94 pp 1, 15

[Unattributed commentary from the Weekly Political Analysis column: "Is the Argentine Explosion Not the Work of the Zionists?"]

[Text] This week a center of Zionist activities in Argentina became the target of bombers and the seven stories of the Zionists' administration building were completely destroyed. Initial figures put the number of people killed at 26, while the 100 who were injured in the blast are reported to be in critical condition. Although the Argentine Government and some news circles have named some suspects and Israel even accused Iran of the incident without any investigations, it is still very early to make any guesses about the reasons for the blast.

The truth is that Israel has perpetrated many crimes and has many enemies. And it is only natural for one of its enemies to have perpetrated this act. On the one hand, we have the Israelis' crime in the massacre of the Muslims at the Holy Abraham shrine in al-Khalil and the long list of other crimes that have been perpetrated in the occupied territories and even in the Gaza Strip, and on the other we have the continuous crimes being perpetrated by Israel in Lebanon. However, it cannot be definitely said that it was only Israel's crimes in these two areas that encouraged some people to "retaliate." Let us not forget that the Mosad has cooperation agreements with the security forces of many countries and namely in Latin America on crushing opposition and on teaching methods of torture, massacre, and suppression. Thus, it is possible that this blast was an act of revenge by combatant Latin American groups against Israel.

Nevertheless, we should not forget that such incidents may have been planned by the Zionists themselves because the leaders of a system that is based on terrorism have shown that to achieve their ends they are even ready to sacrifice their own mercenaries.

Let us not forget that the New York blast too was initially attributed to Iran, to the Arabs, and to the Palestinians but that later on it was revealed that the FBI was behind the blast and that the bombers were FBI infiltration agents who wanted to attribute the Trade Center blast to combatant Egyptian groups. When the behind-the-scene issues of the blast were later "revealed" everyone realized that the American and Israeli propaganda commotion was only aimed at hiding the facts of an incident that was actually masterminded and perpetrated by the American security forces.

Possibly from this outlook one can say that the Argentine blast was the work of the Zionists and that the motives and objectives of the Zionists will come to light later on.

U.S.-Israel 'Disinformation Campaign' Said Failed

LD3107114794 Tehran IRNA in English 1132 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—The Persian daily "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" Sunday regarded the intensification of disinformation campaign by Washington and the international Zionism against Iran as a sign of Iran's might.

Commenting in its editorial on the discontent shown by the U.S. on the recent visit to Tehran of Turkish President Suleyman Demirel, it said that along with the disinformation campaign against Iran, the U.S. Administration has called on Turkey to avoid economic cooperation with Iran.

The U.S. request was turned down and a spokesman for the Turkish Foreign Ministry said that Turkey will continue its cooperation with its neighbours and regional countries on the basis of mutual interests and for safeguarding regional security.

The editorial said that the U.S. had at least three objectives in its broad campaign against Iran, i.e., isolating Iran, dealing blows on the Islamic movements in the Middle East and finding a final settlement for the Zionist regime's problems.

These objectives indicate that the international Zionism along with the U.S., despite apparent progress in the Arab-Israel reconciliation, have failed in bringing about a final solution to the problem.

The Zionists believe that the root cause of this failure is the opposition of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the compromise deal as it has intensified the uprising of Muslim and Arab nations including the Palestinian nation against the compromise plan and made the prospect of the compromise deal gloomy.

The paper considered recent investment by Tel Aviv on bribing the Western mass media to attribute the bomb explosions in Buenos Aires and London to Iran as well as the disinformation campaign launched by international

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Zionism to introduce Iran as terrorist, as parts of a pre-planned Zionism-U.S. joint campaign to attain the aforesaid three objectives.

However, all these hectic activities show the strong position of Iran and the failure of the joint conspiracies of Zionism and the Great Satan against Iran, concluded the paper.

U.S. Said Unhappy With Developing Turkish Ties

LD3107143894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 31 Jul 94

[Station political commentary entitled: "U.S. Blackmailing Turkey"]

[Text] A joint committee of the U.S. Congress on Friday July 29 cut by 10 percent the financial aid to Turkey as of fiscal year 1995. Although in this case, apparently, the stands of the Turkish Government on the Kurds of that country, as well as the Cyprus issue, have been stated as the main reasons for suspending the U.S. aid, it appears that the major reason behind this move is the expansion of ties between Iran and Turkey.

According to political analysts, the move by the joint committee of the U.S. Congress is related to the criticism of Ankara by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, in this connection. Last Thursday, Christopher, contending that Iran backed terroristic operations, said: On this very account, Washington is desirous of the exchange of information with its allies concerning Iran. He added: America will make efforts for the suspension of the ties of its friends with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Political analysts believe that conditions in the region necessitate the enhancement of cooperation among Iran, Turkey, and other countries, but America, which has been trying to isolate Iran in the region and the world for many months, does not think that the development of the ties between Tehran and Ankara, in the wake of the visit by the Turkish President Suleyman Demirel to Iran, to be in the interest of its regional objectives. This is because the agreements reached between these two states concerning Iraq, the Caucasus, Bosnia, and other issues will create obstacles to the implementation of the U.S. policy in these regions as well.

In the same connection, the comments of Mr. (Farhad Otoman), spokesman for the Turkish Foreign Ministry, in response to the U.S. call for isolating Iran, point to a rectification of Ankara's foreign policy and a move by Turkey's policy makers to [word indistinct] independence in regional and world issues. (Otoman), giving a negative reply to America, declared: Turkey will continue its ties with neighbors and other regional states on the basis of mutual interests and for maintaining regional security.

Political analysts say that, on account of the adoption of an independent stance by Ankara, one should expect further U.S. pressure on Turkey. These pressures can even entail more cuts in financial aid and, also, support for the separatist Kurds in Turkey on the pretext of the defense of human rights. But the change in Turkey's foreign policy, which has gained momentum with the resignation of its Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, denotes that Ankara wants to preserve its regional interest without getting any orders from others.

Daily on France's Anti-Iranian Policy

NC3107203694 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 24 Jul 94 p 1

[Editorial: "The French Government and its Uncalculated Actions"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The French Government declared that it considers the policy of the Monafeqin [hypocrites—pejorative term for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] a terroristic policy and is seeking to distance itself from it.

However, in conjunction with this declaration, the French Government has also permitted this group to hold its gala function on 21 July under the name of "A concert for perpetual resistance" just west of Paris. This function, an annual feature by the Monafeqin group, will project a pro-Western image of these leaders of dissent and will allow them to continue their political activity in France.

In any case, the French Government permitted a group of Zionist students living in France to stage demonstrations outside the Iranian Embassy in Paris. The request for staging these demonstrations was aimed at expressing support for the Zionist regime, which is accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran of involvement in the explosion at the AMIA building in Buenos Aires, which is totally unfounded. The Zionist regime is unable to find even the slightest reason or evidence for confirming these baseless allegations.

The French Government's action is giving the Monafeqin and the Zionists a free hand in carrying out propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran, which our nation considers a very hostile action. It is in stark contrast to the utterances of the French echelons who are constantly promising to limit the activities of the terrorist groups. The Monafeqin organization is a terrorist group which—in addition to its black record of destruction and arson—has revealed an even blacker visage in recent weeks, with its explosion at the shrine of Imam Reza (peace be upon him), the planting of bombs at other holy sites, and the plot to kill Christian priests.

The Zionist regime is also a manifestation of government-sponsored terrorism and no one more criminal than the despotic Zionist regime can be found anywhere in the world.

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The French Government has not permitted the Monafeqin to carry out their annual march this year but the fact that it has provided shelter to the ringleaders of this terrorist group, permitted them to hold their concert, and granted permission to the Zionists to stage marches, have made the Iranian nation doubt the French officials' sincerity. However, these actions will not cause any problems for the Islamic Republic of Iran's system.

In view of the strong popular base that the system of the Islamic Revolution enjoys, the fact that the Zionists and the Monafeqin—besides the fact that they cannot be considered something to be reckoned with—are loathed by the world public because they are terrorists. By embarking on such uncalculated actions, the French Government is dealing blows to its own prestige. Would it not be more worthwhile if instead of investing in terrorists the French officials were to ponder over forging healthy relations with the great Iranian nation and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran as one that has strong popular backing?

UN Security Council 'Shortcomings' Criticized

NC3007090594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 30 Jul 94

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes and endorses the UN Security Council's request to strengthen international cooperation for the adoption of effective measures to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorist actions. In a statement issued yesterday, the office of the Islamic Republic of Iran's representative to the United Nations stressed that Iran—a UN member—has suffered immense hardships due to terrorism, declaring: The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns terrorist actions against innocent individuals, regardless of their nationality or beliefs.

The statement expresses regret at UN Security Council's shortcomings in implementing an active, dynamic, and categorical approach to terrorist actions in a uniform manner. The statement says: The Security Council's silence on the terrorist actions in Mashhad, actions by permanent Security Council members to provide sanctuary to terrorists, pressure within the Security Council to ignore the massacre of scores of worshipers in the al-Khalil [Hebron] mosque, the Security Council's negligence toward numerous incidents of abduction and slaughter of those opposed to the usurpation of their territories by the Zionists, and numerous similar discriminatory acts are evidence of the Security Council's past record.

In conclusion, the statement calls on the Security Council to rectify its past record, abstain from international criticism based on double standards and discrimination, and be prepared to tackle the daily recurrence of the Israeli regime's terrorist actions in the region in a serious and realistic manner.

Jannati on West's Influence, Satellite Dishes

LD2907124394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1034 GMT 29 Jul 94

[Friday prayers by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, interim Friday imam of Tehran, in Tehran—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

A point I wish to make is lust—it needs analysis if there is time later—sexual lust, evil, and animal lust which, like greed and extravagance, corrupts. We have to be aware. The revolution came and truly caused an upheaval in attitudes, smashed the symbols of lust, and destroyed the sites that corrupted youngsters. We have to beware so that this situation does not return.

For example, take the issue of satellites. Satellite dishes cause the most harm. If it were not for the sanctity of Friday prayers I would give you many examples of what these sorts of programs have led to and what afflictions they have brought to men, women, boys, and girls in ordinary households. Lust does weird things, it has no bounds. When one falls prey to lust one is not satisfied and wants more and more.

I know—it is quite clear to me—that lust would destroy the world. Those same countries that are now in the clutches of lust and extravagance will suffer the most from that same source. We must be aware and learn. We must be aware of what has happened to them. Film makers and writers must show as much as they can about the extent of crimes committed as a result of pornography.

I thank very much our honorable Islamic revolution prosecutor for ordering the rounding up of satellite dishes from blocks of appartments. God bless him. [Crowd is heard chanting God is Great, Khamene'i is the Leader, and other slogans]

This is the meaning of a revolution. This is our expectation from the revolution courts and revolution court prosecutors. That is, we want them to preserve our revolutionary fervor forever. If that were to happen, the society would support them. No one would dare protest against their benevolent and charitable measures.

The headquarters in charge of reviving the principle of promoting virtue and prohibiting vice prepared a draft bill and submitted it to the Majlis. The Majlis has ratified it in its relevant commission and soon it will go to the Majlis for debate. I expect the esteemed Majlis to approve this as soon as possible.

We must not be afraid. Some Majlis deputies have Western attitudes and do not dislike these things at all. Some are scared of the West. A slightest indication that the West might frown on them doing something is sufficient to make them retreat. Sometimes they are afraid that the plan might be defeated. However, we

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must do our job. Even if one manages to save only four families from this decadence, one would still do a great service. In reality, one would save many more than four—400 or even 4,000 families.

May God grant us a certain degree of piety, which would enable us to combat any immorality [Fesad]. May God join the soul of our imam, who revived this attitude of fighting corruption and tyranny in our society, with the soul of Husayn Bin Ali, peace be upon him. May God protect our dear leader [Khamene'i] with all strength, glory, and might, to confront all instances of corruption, tyranny, poverty, and deprivation. [passage omitted]

* VOA Means for 'Spreading Corrupt Western Culture'

94LA0215E London KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jul 94 p 12

[Text] As the ruckus about satellite dishes continues, another factor which the regime refers to as "spreading the corrupt Western Culture" is infiltrating and spreading; but the regime does not consider it expedient to create a ruckus about it. The VOA radio program, which has the most listeners in Iran, in addition to its shortwave transmitter recently also used two strong medium-wave transmitters as well.

One of these two transmitters is in Kuwait and another in the former Soviet republics of Central Asia, which are located next to Iran. Therefore, all of Iran, from south to north and east to west, is covered by the VOA radio program. At the same time, once in a while one reads in Tehran newspapers that inhabitants of remote cities complain that the reception of the radio of the Islamic Republic is not clear.

Travelers who have come from Iran recently say that VOA radio, which broadcasts twice daily a total of 3.5 hours of programs in Persian, can be heard easily all over Iran from any radio, in homes, cars, and sometimes in the busses traveling between cities. The same people say that in Iranian villages too the VOA is continuously gaining more listeners.

It was not in vain that one of the faithful and devout Hezbollahis in a letter to a Tehran newspaper wrote that while traveling on a bus from Tehran to a provincial city he realized to his astonishment that the driver had turned up the sound of a radio station that was broadcasting "corrupting programs" so loud that it caused discomfort, and his protest to the driver as to why he was not using the radio of the Islamic Republic met with the sarcastic reaction of the driver, assistant driver, and some of the passengers who do not respect the principles of the revolution. The writer of the complaint asks: "Tell me, what I could do other than keep silent for several hours and witness this counterrevolutionary action?"

Possible Ties With Egyptian Government Rejected

NC3007133294 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 23 Jun 94 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "The Archsatan's Trap"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The various opinions expressed officially and unofficially by the Middle Eastern politicians regarding the complete defeat of the Gaza-Jericho Accord are a valuable guide to the failure of the Zionist regime's policy of separate instead of collective talks, even though King Husayn is seeking to sign a compromise accord with Israel and to flaunt the cleverness of the Jordanian officials before their Syrian counterparts.

However, the signing of such an accord will not resolve anything and will merely heighten the existing problems surrounding the Palestine issue.

The hasty visit by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the region and intensive and repetitive negotiations with Hafiz al-Asad, King Husayn, and the Zionists show the deep anxiety on the part of the Archsatan. This anxiety is justified in view of the major difficulties that the United States and Israel are facing which will not go away.

The main problems of the United States and Israel are Palestine and the Muslim nations on the one hand and the categorical and clear stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the talks on the compromise on the other. Those who believe that with the signing of the accord with the Arab rulers and by ignoring the will of the people, especially the Palestinian nation, they will be able to legitimize the Zionist entity in the region, are laboring under a delusion.

The continuing intifadah, the violent stances against the Gaza-Jericho Accord belie all such notions. It will be the same in the future, too. The fact is that signing the accord with one government that is severed from the people not only has no backing but encourages the people to escalate their struggle against Israel.

The source of assurance to the Palestinian nation and all other Muslim nations in the region and the anti-Israeli Islamic movements is the anti-Zionist stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which does not accept the existence of a government named Israel. It believes that the struggle of the Palestinian nation with the support of all other Muslim nations should continue until the destruction of this despotic government.

The main impediment that lies in the path of plans such as the Gaza-Jericho Accord is the overt and categorical opposition of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is precisely for this reason that it has constantly been the target of political, propagandist, and economic pressures and attacks by the united front of the powers of world arrogance and Zionism. Despite the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran has itself been the victim of terrorism, it has constantly been accused of being a terrorist by this united front.

In any case, this anti-Islamic front is not above trying other ploys. Accusing the Islamic Republic of Iran's

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government of leniency toward the Zionist regime is another of its diabolical ploys. These accusations aimed at the Islamic Republic of Iran are a mode of indirect propaganda. They have sought to motivate the most notorious broker of Zionism in the region, that is, the Husni Mubarak government, to get close to the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is for the purpose of projecting the impression that in the public opinion of the regional Muslim nations and Islamic movements there is a logical link between the closeness of Tehran and Cairo and between Cairo and Tel Aviv. This would mean that without any need for direct propaganda, it would generate the impression that the Islamic Republic of Iran—despite its overt anti-Zionist stance—has no intrinsic animosity to the Zionist regime and is ready to act leniently!

The recent utterances by 'Amr Musa, the foreign minister of the Husni Mubarak regime, who said: "The time has come for a change in relations between Iran and Egypt" are part of this extremely cunning scheme. Simultaneous with these remarks, the intensive efforts on the part of Christopher to bring about a compromise between Syria and Israel is clear proof of this satanic ploy.

The foreign minister of the Mubarak regime has said: "For the benefit of the Muslims of the world, Iran and Egypt should resume their talks and all kinds of cooperation between these two countries is to the benefit of the Islamic world!"

The fact that the peddlers of Zionism have remembered the "benefits of the Islamic world" and despite their floundering in the vortex of their affiliation with the United States and subservience of the Zionists, they are talking of the Islamic world, and this indicates the utter abjectness of their mentors and themselves. They are well aware that the definition that the Islamic Republic of Iran has of the Islamic world and of the benefits of the Muslims has nothing in common with the definition by the Husni Mubarak regime or of his overlords.

It is for this reason that the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes relations with the great Egyptian nation only on condition that a popular government acceptable to the nation is at the helm. It considers any relations with the government of Husni Mubarak, the broker for Zionism, as tantamount to falling into the trap of the Archsatan.

Security Forces Arrest Suspect in Shrine Blast

LD0108064394 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—A security official here Monday [1 August] said that a special team of security forces following the June 20 bomb blast at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), in an armed clash earlier today arrested an armed man who is suspicious of being involved in the unprecedented crime.

Earlier, local residents at Tehran Pars region, east of the capital, in a telephone contact with IRNA had reported the arrest of an armed man who had opened fire at the security forces but could not manage to escape. They said the man was seriously injured.

Following the report, IRNA contacted an official at the information ministry who said that a special patrol team of the forces who were missioned to identify and chase the culprits behind the bomb blast at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) encountered a suspicious man who resembled much to Mahdi Nahvi in appearance.

Earlier evidences indicated that Mahdi Nahvi had been the main agent involved in the bombing at the shrine of Imam Reza (AS). The heinous cri.ne which shocked the civilized world claimed the lives of 26 pilgrims and wounded a large number of others.

The security official at the information ministry further told IRNA on the phone that forces of the special patrol team who were chasing the suspicious man tried to arrest him but he opened fire at them in an attempt to flee. But, he added, the forces arrested him with the help of the people.

The arrested armed man who was seriously injured was rushed to a hospital where he is receiving treatment, the official added.

'Terrorist' Undergoing Surgery

LD0108081094 Tehran IRNA in English 0704 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—Hospital sources say that the arrested terrorist injured in a clash with security forces this morning has undergone surgical operation at a hospital east of Tehran. Head of the surgical operation team told IRNA that the arrested man has received bullets in several parts of his body and still is bleeding. He said his team will spare no efforts to stop the bleeding and remove the bullets from his body.

The doctor stressed that he would not allow anybody to talk with the injured until the operation is completed. He added that for the time being he could not comment over the health condition of his patient.

Suspect Identified as MKO Agent Nahvi

LD0108082694 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—An official at the Information [Intelligence] Ministry announced that the armed man who was arrested in a short clash with the security forces east of Tehran this morning has been identified as Mehdi Nahvi, the agent of the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) who is responsible for the bombing at the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as).

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The official told IRNA minutes ago that the special team for chasing those involved in the blast at the [words indistinct] the armed man as soon as he was transferred to hospital. Following the bomb blast at the holy shrine on Ashura, June 20, several teams were set up to chase and indentify the culprits while controlling all exits of the country, the official said. He added that the information provided by the people has been crucial in the arrest of Nahvi. However, he thanked the Iranian people for their vigilance and cooperation with the security forces. The official expressed hope that with the arrest of Nahvi more details on the crimes of the MKO in the shrine bombing and their other anti-social plots would be unveiled.

The public would be informed about the details of Nahvi's arrest and the shrine bombing as soon as further information is gathered.

Security Minister Comments

LD0108104094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Aug 94

[Interview with Minister of Intelligence and Security 'Ali Fallahian-Khuzestani by unidentified correspondent on 1 August, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr. Fallahian, it was announced today that Mehdi Nahvi, the perpetrator of the bombing at the shrine of Imam Reza, peace be upon him, has been arrested by Intelligence Ministry forces. Can you give us any more details about the arrest?

[Fallahian] I am pleased to inform the hezbollahi ummah and the eminent leader [Khamene'i], who has given us the necessary guidance in this regard, that we succeeded today in identifying and arresting Mehdi Nahvi, the main agent behind the bombing at the blessed shrine of Imam Reza, peace be upon him. As you know, after the arrest of Bahram 'Abbas-Zadeh, who intended to place a bomb at a Sunni Friday prayer gathering, we were able to identify Mehdi Nahvi. In view of the fact that 'Abbas-Zadeh had told us about a meeting planned by Nahvi—however, Nahvi did not turn up for the meeting. We gave Nahvi's picture to the media and, at that time, we established special information and watch patrols. God be praised, this morning, when he intended to make contact with his link and tried to enter a telephone exchange in Tehran Pars [area], he was identified by the Ministry's special patrol and arrested in the course of an armed clash. He is injured now and is undergoing treatment. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] You said that he intended to contact his link. Has it become clear exactly whom he was trying to contact?

[Fallahian] On the basis of an examination of the material he was carrying, we obtained a phone number of the Monafeqin [hypocrites—reference to the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] in Germany. It is quite likely that he intended to contact them.

[Correspondent] What condition is he in at the moment?

[Fallahian] He is undergoing treatment now and he is not very well. He is due to undergo an operation. We hope that the operation will prove successful and that we are able to obtain more information from him.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Sri Lanka

Lack of Political Will Cited in Ethnic Crisis

BK0108090994 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 18 Jul 94 p 2

[Article by S. Gunanayagam from Trincomalee]

[Text] Speaking at general meetings, functions, and private gatherings, the president and ministers say that there is no such thing as ethnic conflict in the country and that there exists only terrorism, which should be met only with war. On other occasions, they have said that the existing problems in our country should be resolved by negotiations alone. In addition to making such statements, they are spoiling the economy of our country by spending 200 billion rupees every year on the war in the northeast.

Neither the ruling United National Party [UNP] nor the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party seems to realize the pathetic condition of the people in the northeast. Both parties together can resolve the ethnic crisis that exists; however, they do not resolve the problems of the Tamils because they only think of reaping political gains.

As far as Sri Lanka is concerned, creating a combined political setup by forging unity among Tamil, Sinhalese, Muslim, and European communities will be the only way to gain a political solution in the country.

The UNP is terribly apprehensive that if it comes forward to establish a combined political setup with the merger of the north and the east, thereby resolving the political crisis, it will encounter resistance from the majority Sinhalese people and hence will not be able to contest elections.

The former president, the late Premadasa, said that he would soon resolve the ethnic crisis in Sri Lanka. He was in power for four years and eventually passed away under pathetic circumstances. After assuming office, the new president, D.B. Wijetunga, said that he was ready to resolve the ethnic conflict in the country and that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam could hold talks with him anytime. The Sri Lankan Tamils also were very elated to hear such a statement from the president. Gradually, the president started shifting his stance until now he says with emphasis that there is no ethnic conflict in the country and that only terrorism is rampant here.

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Today the government says it has brought the eastern province under its control. The people living in the villages of the east are undergoing untold sufferings and are not in a position to carry out their occupations such as agriculture and fishing. This has sent them into a state of poverty. They are not in a position to obtain sufficient food because they do not have regular jobs. The people who have resettled here have not been properly paid their resettlement allowance of 2,000 rupees. The resettlement economic assistance of 4,000 rupees each has also not been disbursed among the thousands of resettlers. Without any relief assistance, the resettlers are in a state of starvation. The refugees who returned from India have also not yet been provided with the economic assistance of 4,000 rupees each.

In the northeast, unable to bring up their children after being rendered widows, several thousand women have left their children to the care of orphanages. More than 100 orphanages are functioning in the Eastern Province today and they are all full now. Therefore, some mothers face the ordeal of being unable to place their children in orphanages. In the past, hundreds of youths were arrested on suspicion by government forces and were detained in cells. Some parents who do not have money to visit their children in jails sell their jewels and land to raise money for transport expenses. These youths, who have been languishing in cells for several years, have lost their education, which in turn has ruined their lives.

The people in the north are constrained to lead a hard life after paying through the nose for food materials and fuel. As far as the Northern Province is concerned, the people must live in constant fear and apprehension. They spend their lives facing the fear of impending aerial bombing at any time.

The Tamils who migrated to Colombo and its suburbs after realizing that they could not live in the northeast are being arrested on suspicion there as well, and are imprisoned in miserable conditions.

It does not seem that political forces have so far taken any constructive steps to overcome such a distressing situation to create a healthy atmosphere.

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